# DJIBOUTI

# RAPID EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT

**May 2008**

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**Executive Summary**

Following several years of poor and erratic rains pasture and water conditions are extremely poor throughout Djibouti. In addition, the 2008 Diraa/Sougoum (March-May) rains started late, making the already worsening food security situation of pastoralists throughout the country even worse. Moreover, since one year, prices of staple foods in Djibouti have increased constantly with staple food costs currently at 46 percent[1] above the five-year average in Djibouti city. This is affecting the purchasing power of poor households. Based on this, WFP Djibouti with support from OMJ and HQ and in partnership with FEWSNET fielded a rapid Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) aiming:

i. to understand the impact of droughts and high prices on the rural and urban population;
ii. to provide qualitative information in order to:
    a. estimate the number of people who will be affected by the next rainy season;
    b. estimate the extent to which they been affected by the droughts and rise in prices; and
    c. understand the households' resilience/coping mechanism.

It is important to note that the rapid EFSA team could not complete its work, because the Government requested CO WFP and FEWSNET to immediately suspend its rural and urban assessment. The results presented in this document are based on data collected in the first three days of the assessment and specifically focuses on the rural areas. Within three days a total of 20 out of 28 sites were visited and 130 households were interviewed. A further 19 focus group discussions, 43 wealth groups and 8 traders' surveys were conducted. No data could be colleted in the urban areas.

The study did not aim to be statistically representative. The methodology was designed to save time but obtain sufficient information to cover the objectives. The overall methodology was based on the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework and guided the overall analysis. In order to capture the impact of the current price increases and the drought on the rural a number of different instruments were used: i) Focus groups Discussion, ii) Wealth Group discussion, iii) Household Survey and iv) Traders survey.

The results of the EFSA 2008 have shown that the livelihood and food security situation has changed within the last 12months. The entire population of Djibouti has been affected by the price rise and all rural population is suffering from enduring drought. Both shocks have had an impact on the livelihood activities and food consumption. Due to these developments, it can be assumed that the range of people being currently within the poor and medium wealth groups is approximately 37,000 – 80,000. Both groups are highly vulnerable to the prices shocks as well demonstrate poor or borderline diets. Based on the results of this study, it is recommended that an additional 15,000 – 20,000 people are assisted between the end of the lean season (June – August 2008) and January/February 2009 (End of Heys/Dada season), in all three zones amounting to total of 70,000 beneficiaries. Assuming that rain and pastoral conditions will improve within the next 6-9 months allowing rural communities to recover from the shocks the following programming interventions are recommended:

- Continuation of general food distribution (full ration in Northwest and Central zone and half ration in the Southern zone[2]) until the end of the January/February 2009 for all poor households in all three livelihood zones;
- In addition to the poor wealth group, between the 2008 lean period (June – August) and the end of next January/February 2009 (End of Heys/Dada Season) provide a general distribution to the medium

[1] Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), April 2008
[2] for details see Annex 6; The total ration for General Food Distribution for the targeted population over the next 9 months is 8,884MT.

wealth group in all livelihood zones (full ration in Northwest and Central zone and half ration in the Southern zone[3]) ;

- Continue to support school feeding programmes in all three livelihood zones; and
- At the end of the general distribution, programming will move to other response options such as FFW/A as recommended by the Programme review mission in 2007.

Furthermore it is recommended to conduct:

- A joint urban assessment with FEWSNET (as anticipated) to analyze the impact of price increases on household food security. This assessment should also help to have a better understanding of urban household profiles and their coping mechanism; and
- A regional market study to assess the cross-border trade between Ethiopian, Djibouti and Somaliland.

[3] for details see Annex 6

## 1. Background and Objectives

Pasture conditions are extremely poor throughout Djibouti following several years of poor and erratic rains. In addition, the 2008 Diraa/Sougoum (March-May) rains started late, making the already worsening food security situation of pastoralists throughout the country even worse. Furthermore, over the past months, prices of staple foods in Djibouti have increased constantly with staple food costs currently at 46 percent[4] above the five-year average in Djibouti city. This is affecting the purchasing power of poor households. Based on this, WFP Djibouti with support from OMJ and HQ and in partnership with FEWSNET fielded a rapid Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) aiming:

iii. to understand the impact of droughts and high prices on the rural and urban population;
iv. to provide qualitative information in order to:
    a. estimate the number of people who will be affected by the next rainy season;
    b. estimate the extent to which they been affected by the droughts and rise in prices; and
    c. understand the households' resilience/coping mechanism.

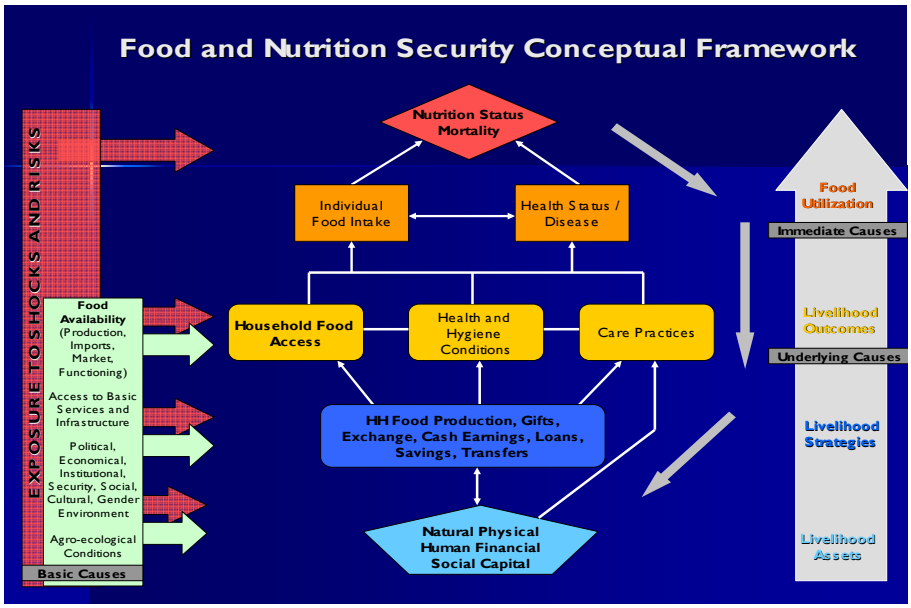
The 2008 EFSA report consists of five sections. The first section provides a general overview of the methodology used for this assessment and is followed by a brief overview of the current economic situation. This section also summarizes the main food security development between 2004 and 2008. The third section specifically elaborates the main findings of the focus groups, wealth group, key informant discussion as well as household questionnaire by livelihood zone. The fourth section summarizes the main conclusions and puts forward some preliminary estimations of the number of people affected by the different shocks. The last section highlights some programming recommendations in relation WFP programming and to further assessments.

[4] Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), April 2008

## 2. Methodology

The study did not aim to be statistically representative. The methodology was designed to save time but obtain sufficient information to cover the objectives. The overall methodology was based on the Food and Nutrition Security Conceptual Framework (see image below) and guided the overall analysis.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the Impact of the Price Shock on Food Security and Nutrition




In order to capture the impact of the current price increases and the drought on the rural, a number of methods were used. The team reviewed secondary data, met with stakeholders and key informants and carried out rapid primary data collection in the three main rural livelihood zones. The primary data collection comprised of both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods using four different instruments i) Focus groups Discussion, ii) Wealth Group discussion, iii) Household Survey and iv) Traders survey. (See annex 4 for details).

In the rural area the assessment aimed at characterizing the food security and its causes within three main livelihood zones[5], which represents the sample universe for this assessment. The sampling frame counted 34 sites. The sample was drawn through a two-stage cluster exercise. The first stage drew a sample using a list of all villages in each of the three livelihoods. Within the second stage households were randomly selected in identifies villages. Furthermore, focus groups discussions were conducted with the community. Based on the focus group discussion different wealth groups (poor, medium and better-off)[6] within each community were then interviewed as well.

The focus group and wealth group discussions represented the key element in this EFSA. It guided the discussions on the changes which occurred within the last 12 months. Moreover, the information collected was directly compared to EFSA results in 2006 and the FEWSNET Livelihood study in 2004 to understand the specific changes that have taken place within the last few years.

The traders' questionnaire provided information on food access and availability on the different markets. It also provided information on access to credit for traders as well as on access to credit for their customers.

[5] for details, see FEWSNET 2004 Djibouti livelihood profiles
[6] In order to allow a comparison with FEWSNET Djibouti livelihood profiles same wealth groups categories were used.

Moreover, discussions with traders helped to better understand how the current market functions and the behavior of customers in rural communities.

The household questionnaire filled in the gaps by complementing the focus group, wealth group and traders' questionnaire. These gaps are detailed information on food consumption and expenditures, income and food source, and coping mechanisms. Up to ten households were randomly selected within the community.

### 2.1. Data Entry and Analysis

A data entry application was created in Microsoft Access. The application was installed on a local network. Half day training was given to the clerks that outlined the process of data entry and practice with the application. Three data entry clerks entered all the questionnaires over a period of 2 days.

### 2.2. Household Food Consumption

Household food security profiles were developed using information on dietary diversity, the consumption frequency of staple and non-staple food, sources of foods consumed, the percentage of total household expenditure spent on food and per capita monthly expenditure.

To measure the quality of the household diet and food access, the variety (and sources) of foods/food groups (dietary diversity) consumed by household members was used as a proxy indicator. Research has demonstrated that dietary diversity is highly correlated with caloric and protein adequacy, percentage of protein from animal sources (high quality protein) and household income.

In order to classify households on the basis of their actual weekly food consumption, the frequency of consumption for the 19 food items was reorganized into 9 main food groups (days of consumption, 0 to 7 days per week). The organisation of these groups is defined in the annexes at the end of this report.

Each household was asked to report the main sources for each food item consumed in the past week. Possible options included: Purchase, own production, loans, gifts, food aid, remittances and others The number of responses for each source was 'weighted' by the frequency of consumption of the foods that were accessed through that particular source. Then the proportion of 7-day consumption from each source was calculated.

Households were grouped based on their consumption into 3 groups, (i) poor, (ii) borderline, (iii) acceptable. Households with poor consumption mainly consumed cereal about 6 times, oil and sugar 4 times in 7[7] days respectively. They had a very low consumption of meat and pulses. This group seemed to experience difficulties meeting their food needs and are possibly highly reliant on food aid. They have an average of 2 meals a day. A high proportion of this group have sale of artisan products and charcoal sales as their main income. This group comprised about 44% of the sample. Borderline consumption profile is composed of households that consume cereals, oil and sugar about 6 times out of 7 days, have pulses and vegetables at least once in 7 days. Households in this category have an average of 2.5 meals a day. A significant proportion of this profile relies of salaries and wages as well as unskilled wage labour for their income and form about 26% of the sample. The acceptable consumption group are households that consumed cereals everyday in the previous seven days. They also consumed oils and sugar 5 days in seven days and have meat and pulses at least once in 7 days. The major income activity for this profile is sale of animals.

[7] Please note, in cases where the total number of days a food category (e.g. cereals) was consumed is greater than 7 is because the mean consumption is the sum of all the food items in that category. For example, the total number of days out of 7 cereals were consumed is a sum of the 6 different cereals/starches in the questionnaire. Resultantly, a household could have eaten maize 4 days out of 7, wheat 2 days out of 7 and rice 2 days out of seven. The total number of days out of seven there cereals/starches were consumed were 8 days out of 7.

### 2.3. Limitations of Study

It is important to note that the rapid EFSA team could not complete its work. After three days of field work the Government requested WFP CO to immediately suspend its rural and urban assessment. All the teams had to return to Djibouti city. The results presented in this document are based on data collected in the first three days of the assessment. Within three days a total of 20 out of 28 sites were visited and 130 households were interviewed. A further 19 focus group discussions, 43 wealth groups and 8 traders' surveys were conducted. No data could be colleted in the urban areas.

While rigorous standards were applied to the analytical process, the following must be acknowledged:

- Threat to external validity: Limitations in the ability to generalize the results from the sample of the general population must be acknowledged. The survey data is designed to represent the situation at a given point in time.

- Threat to internal validity: Incorrect recall and quantitative estimates may affect the validity of the results. The enumerators were trained to facilitate recall and quantitative estimates to improve internal validity. In some cases social desirability, lack of freedom of speech and expectations may have affected the responses and set patterns, especially given that the households may previously have been the object of program-oriented assessments (e.g. food aid) and responses. However, the anonymous character of the survey contributed to mitigate this bias.

- Threat to reliability: Threat to the reliability or repeatability (Kalton et al., 2005) of the results was minimized through the questionnaire design and training of the enumerators. Training in the household questionnaire was conducted to reduce individual variation in how enumerators understood the questions. The questionnaire, although designed in English, was translated into French for the enumerators to use and most cases the interviews were conducted in the local language/dialect.

## 3. Djibouti: Socio-Economic Background

Djibouti is one of the smallest countries in Africa with an average rainfall of only 150 mm per year for most of the country. The hot and dry climate does not allow for agricultural production. Temperature is as important as rainfall in determining patterns of livelihood, with low-lying coastal areas experiencing the highest temperatures, particularly during the summer months from May to September.

Djibouti is classified as both a least developed and a low-income, food-deficit country that is mainly dependent on imports to meet its food requirements. Djibouti only ranks 149 out of 177 countries in 2007 Human Development Index[8]. There is no accurate population data available for Djibouti. The last official census was conducted in 1983. Population numbers are estimated between 500,000 and 840,000[9]. At present the UN estimates population at 632,000[10]. 65% of the population is thought to reside in Djibouti town and 80% in all Djibouti and the 5 district towns.

Poverty is widespread, with more than 40 percent of the population living below the national poverty line[11]. Latest figures available from the World Bank show that at least 42 percent of the population lived on less than $2 per day in 2002. Extreme poverty increased from 9.6 percent in 1996 to 42.2 percent in 2002. Malnutrition among children younger than five is a silent emergency in Djibouti, with malnutrition rates well above the emergency threshold. The 2006 Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey attributes this poor nutritional status of Djibouti infants and children mainly to frequent droughts, high unemployment and food prices that are beyond the means of most poor people in urban and rural areas. The global acute malnutrition rate had risen to 20.4 percent compared with 17.9 percent in 2002, and severe acute malnutrition was 7.1 percent, against 5.9 percent in 2002.

### 3.1. Food Security assessments and Livelihoods in Djibouti

To better frame the assessment results a summary of main food security events according to FEWSNET and the past assessments findings are presented in the following sections (summary table in Annex 4).

#### 3.1.1. History of Food Security Alerts from 2004 to 2008

In 2004, FEWSNET carried out a livelihoods study and identified four principal rural livelihood zones in Djibouti[12]: Northwest Pastoral zone, Central Pastoral zone, Southeast Pastoral zone, and Market Gardening zone[13]. The only urban livelihood zone is Djibouti City. Since then, FEWSNET provides food security alerts on a regular basis. However in some cases alerts show some chronological and analytical inconsistencies. The subsequent paragraphs provide details of these alerts.

Beginning in June 2004, FEWSNET indicated that conditions were moderately food insecure in the Northwest and Southwest due to poor rains. In 2005 (hays/dada season), the situation worsened because of successive poor rains (Highly and moderate food insecurity). At the end of 2005 moderate food insecurity was observed in all the livelihood zones. In 2006 food security alerts indicated high food insecurity during March-May period. Between June-October 2007 situations improved to food secure in all zones due to improved rains. The situation remained stable till March 2007. In June 2007, FEWSNET alerts report "Drought and high prices increase pastoral food insecurity , due to delayed March to May rains which resulted in worsening livestock conditions." In August 2007, FEWSNET states that:

[8] UNDP, 2008
[9] Brass, 2008
[10] See Joint Nutrition Survey, 2007
[11] United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA
[12] FEWSNET, 2004

> "A food security crisis is possible in inland pastoral areas if the July to September *karan* rains end poorly. Households in these areas already face high to extreme levels of food insecurity, and a poor end of the *karan* season would cause significant livestock deaths, further reducing these households' main source of food and income. Food prices also continue to increase, causing decreased caloric intake and increasing malnutrition rates in urban households. Extreme food insecurity is emerging in rural areas, following consecutive failures of the 2006 *karan* rains and the 2007 March to May *diraa*/*sougoum* season. Pasture and water are in short supply in these areas, and livestock body conditions are deteriorating. Poor livestock productivity and milk production are restricting the main sources of pastoral food and income. These conditions are the most severe in remote areas of the northwest."[14]

Following this alert, in November 2007 FEWSNET reports that: "the food security of most pastoralists has improved due to the favorable performance of the July to September karan/karma rains. Milk production is abundant, and livestock body conditions are improving as the availability of pasture and water increases". In parallel, FEWSNET underlines that the steady rise in cereal prices eroded household food security.

In May 2008, FEWSNET states that; "that the food security situation in all livelihood zones of Djibouti, both urban and rural, is critical. Due to poor rainfall over the past three seasons and extremely high staple food prices, the majority of households in pastoral areas are facing high to extreme food insecurity." The population at risk of food insecurity is estimated at 284,000 people.

As shown above, FEWSNET alerts provide a detailed overview of the food security developments with the last four years. These alerts also demonstrate the constant changes in life conditions in the rural areas, which are mainly influenced by droughts and increased food and energy prices. Between 2004 and 2008 the overall food security conditions deteriorated in Djibouti. The main shocks observed in this period are droughts and increased food and energy prices affecting around 11,000 to 280,000 people between 2004 and 2008[15].

#### 3.2. EFSA 2006 and Joint Nutrition Survey 2007

In 2006 WFP carried out an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA). The results of this assessment showed that 13% of the rural populations are food insecure and highly vulnerable. Moreover, it was shown that a high variation within the country exists. The prevalence of food-insecure/highly vulnerable households ranged from 27/13% in the Northwest to 12/7% in the Southeast. The results also showed that in the Northwest Livelihood zone food-insecure households are more likely to be affected by a shock, predominately drought. In the Central and Southeast Livelihood zones, food-insecure households are more likely to be female-headed or undertake marginal livelihoods depending on gifts. Households in the Central and Southeast Livelihood zones with access to land or remittances from urban employment are more likely to be food secure. As with the Northwest Livelihood zone, pastoral households who have lost pasture land in the recent drought are more likely to be food insecure.

In December 2007 a joint nationwide nutrition survey confirmed that acute malnutrition or wasting rates for children under five continued to be high. At a national level, the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate was measured at 16.8 percent, which is above the 15 percent emergency threshold established by the WHO. The severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate was at 2.4 percent.

[14] In December 2006 FEWSNET alerts however stated that: "Rains continued during November along the coastal belt, increasing the likelihood of a good 2007 heys/dada season. Most pastoralists are currently concentrated in their normal heys/dada grazing areas around the coastal belt. The food security situation of most pastoral livelihood zones is currently satisfactory. The onset and performance of the approaching diraa/sougoum season is the principal factor influencing the food security of highly livestock dependent households in inland areas."

[15] Annex provides a detailed overview of the main food security developments from 2004 to May 2008.

In rural areas the GAM rate stood at 17.4 percent. GAM rates have remained above the emergency threshold between 2002 and 2007 at an alarming rate of about 17 percent. SAM rates have improved from 5.9 percent to 2.4 percent during the same period.

The Northwest Pastoral Livelihood Zone, where poor food security conditions have been prevalent over years, has the highest GAM of 24.8 percent and SAM rate of 3.5 percent. In the Southeast Pastoral Border Sub zone and the Central Livelihood Low Altitude Sub zone, GAM rates of 15.8 percent and 19.3 percent respectively and SAM rates of 2.2 percent and 1.3 percent respectively were measured.

At present, the basic factors influencing the food security and nutritional situation of households in Djibouti can be summarized as follows: agro-economic conditions that make agricultural production almost impossible. Djibouti is dominated by pastoralist communities relying mainly on livestock sales as major income activity, which is only partially integrated into the economic system[16] Access to basic services and infrastructure is poorly developed. The overall political environment is characterized by continuous struggle (sometimes violent) between ethnic groups of Afar and Issas. Looking specifically at food availability Djibouti is heavily depending on food imports and services.

In sum, today rural communities in Djibouti are exposed to two main shocks: 1, chronic droughts affecting directly household's assets, livelihood strategies and consequently their livelihood outcomes. 2, Food price rise which directly impacts household's assets and their overall livelihood strategies as with increased prices overall food access has declined within the last months in urban and rural areas.

### 3.3. Recent Price Developments and Livestock Markets

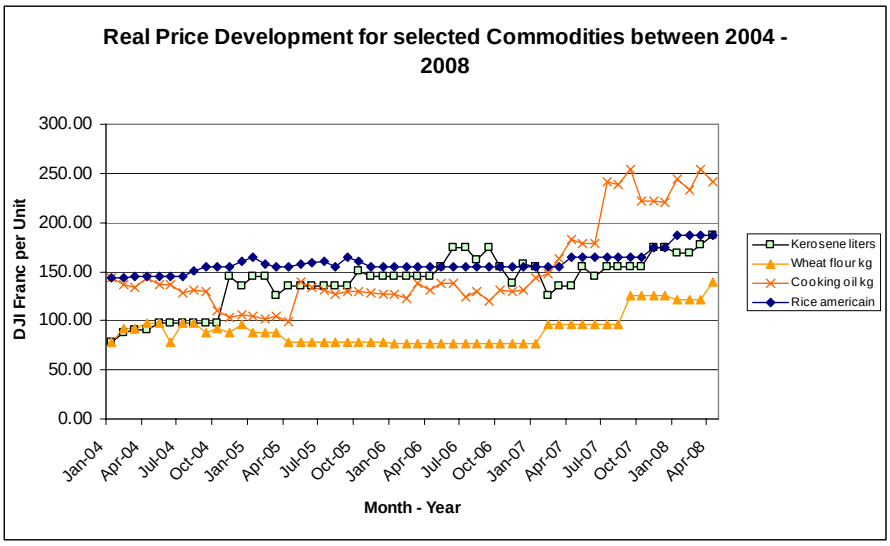
Djibouti is a net-importing country for almost all products[17.] This dependency puts Djibouti into a difficult position in relation to global price developments. Within the last years, global market price increases were immediately translated on the local market[18] thus affecting food security nationally.

#### 3.3.1. Prices

Figure 2 shows the development for kerosene, wheat flour, cooking oil and American rice. Between 2004 and 2007 prices for selected commodities have been relatively stable. Since 2007 all prices have shown a steady upward trend, which is also highlighted in some FEWSNET food security alerts. For example vegetable oil increased by 68% and wheat flour by 82% between January 2007 and April 2008. In May 2008 FEWSNET announced that staple food costs are 46% above the five-year average. Further it was emphasized that the total expenditure basket was 63% above the lowest paid salaries in urban areas.[19] This trend can be attributed to the global price increase of food and energy prices since beginning of 2007.

Figure 2: Real price development for selected commodities

[16] Brass, 2008
[17] FAO, 2008
[18] See FEWSNET alert 2006
[19] FEWSNET, 2008




Source: FEWSNET, 2008

The main markets for food and livestock are found in Djibouti city. Smaller markets can be found in the city of Ali Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjourah, Obock, Randan and Galafi. Prices for all commodities rise as the distance from Djibouti city increases (see table 1). Galafi is an exception as traders' supply sources are mainly located in Ethiopia. In general it can be stated that all sites located close to the Ethiopian border are mainly supplied by Ethiopia. It is also interesting to note that in the past small traders in Obock and Khor-Anghar obtained supplies themselves from Yemen using small boats to cross the channel of the Red Sea. At present these commercial activities have been completely suspended by the Government.

Table 1: Nominal prices (retail) for selected commodities in different markets in May 2008.

| | Unit | Djibouti | Weah | Ali Sabieh | Galafi | Wadi (Obock) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rize (belem) | kg | 150 | 146 | 160 | 160 | 180 |
| Wheat flour | kg | 150 | n.a | n.a | n.a. | 160 |
| Vegetable Oil | kg | 258 | 320 | 366 | 500 | 400 |

Source: FEWSNET, 2008 and WFP EFSA 2008

#### 3.3.2. Livestock Market

Livestock represents the backbone of livelihoods in the rural areas. As Brass states in her report: "the agricultural sector, including livestock production, makes up only 3-5% of GDP and provides only 10% of food requirements in Djibouti, yet it is the primary or sole means of livelihood for between a quarter and a third of the population."[20] Djibouti's rural land is mainly used for livestock production dominated by subsistence nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralism of small ruminants (primarily goats) and camels. It is important to note that national livestock production is only marginally integrated into the national economy[21]. National demand for meat is covered by imports from Ethiopia and Somalia. Animals raised in these countries are of higher quality and lower costs[22]. Hence, livestock represents in the first line an important source of food (production of milk and butter) and sales of milk and butter is an equally important source income. However, sales of animals itself takes place only for specific events and limited number[23] in Djibouti.

[20] Brass, 2008, page 16
[21] see PRSP, 2004.
[22] Brass ,2008.
[23] Brass notes "Outside of the capital, there are very small markets for meat in district towns. Demand is usually more than sufficiently met, meaning that when pastoralists do want to sell their animals, they must transport them to distant national markets. […] because of these constraints to trade, it is likely that

## 4. Main Findings

The following sections present the main findings derived from the field data collection by livelihood zone. Each livelihood section concludes by providing a brief food security analysis based on the food and nutrition security conceptual framework analysis framework.

### 4.1. Northwest Pastoral Zone

In 2004 FEWSNET described this livelihood zone as the most isolated and disadvantaged zone in Djibouti[24]. According to focus group discussion the overall food security situation in this region has not improved within the last years. This is mainly because the lack of rain has negatively impacted the households in this region. Households indicated that they had lost a significant amount of livestock within the last 12 months. A number of people indicated that the population's food access has decreased due to the increase in food prices in the district capitals. Also, a large part of the population is currently being supported through the World Food Program assistance.

#### Demographics, Wealth Group Distribution and their characteristics

The average household size is 8.34 much higher that the 5.8 reported in 2006 and 75% of households are headed by men and 25% by women.

The results of the proportional pilling exercise shows that in the visited communities the range of poor household is 30-35%, medium 40-55% and better 10-30%.

**Table 2 : Characteristics of Northwest Pastoral Zone by Wealth group.**

| | Distribution and Range of Wealth of Group for Northwest Pastoral Zone | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Rural population 16,100** | **Poor** | **Medium** | **Better Off** |
| **in %** | **30 - 35** | **40-55** | **10 - 30** |
| **In total numbers** | **4,800 - 5,600** | **6,400 - 8,800** | **1,600 - 4,800** |

According to the focus group and wealth group discussions poorer households tend to have less livestock (or no livestock) compared to the medium or better-off. Similar livelihood characteristics were already observed in 2004(see table 4 below). The main difference is that the overall amounts have changed. This is mainly due to high level of animal losses as mentioned by most of interviewees. The poorest are often widows or widowers, orphans or handicapped according to focus groups discussions.

**Table 3: Livestock holding characteristics of Northwest Pastoral Zone by Wealth group in 2004 and 2008**

| Northwest Pastoral zone | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Poor** | | **Medium** | | **Better Off** | |
| **2004** | **2008** | **2004** | **2008** | **2004** | **2008** |
| **1 Camel, 25-35 Goats** | **<5 Goats <2 Donkeys <5 Sheep** | **1-2 Camels, 50-80 goats, 0-10 sheep** | **<5 Camels 5-10 Goats <2 Donkeys** | **2-4 Camels, 80-170 goats, 15-25 sheep** | **<5 Camels >50 Goats** |

**Source: FEWSNET 2004, EFSA 2008**

Table 4 summarizes the different income sources indicated by the focus groups in the sites visited. The sale of salt was not mentioned during discussions in 2008. A specific reason for this decline was not mentioned, but

pastoralists actually sell their animals during the part of the year they spend in Ethiopia or Somalia, as herders get higher returns on their sales in these countries."

[24] FEWSNET, 2004, p 10.

already in 2004 salt trade was in decline as this sector was taken over by big traders from Djibouti city and abroad[25].

**Table 4: Main Income Source in 2004 and 2008**

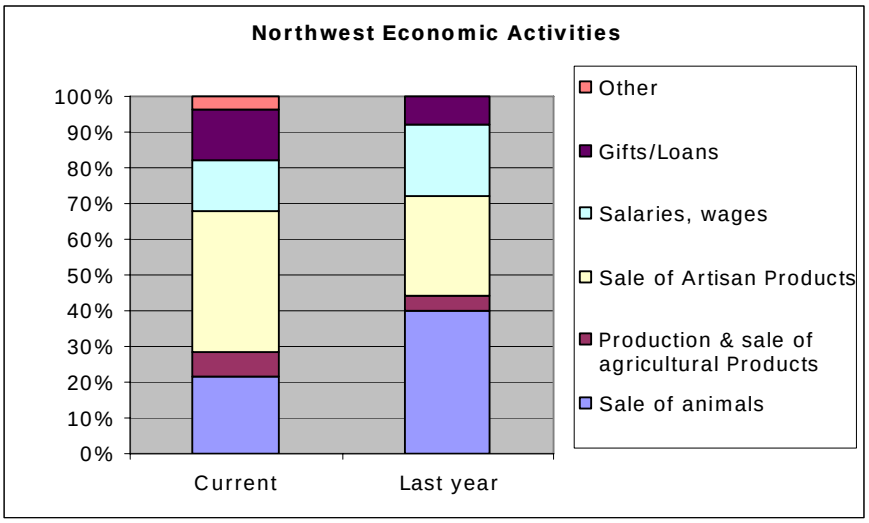
| | Northwest Pastoral zone |
|---|---|
| **May 2004** | **Sales of Livestock (40 – 60%)**<br>**Sales of Butter (20 – 40%)**<br>**Sales of Salt**<br>**Sales of Onga (Handicraft)** |
| **May 2008** | **Sales of Livestock (<20%)**<br>**Sales of Handicraft (40%)**<br>**Sales of Palm wine** |

Source: FEWSNET 2004, EFSA 2008

**Economic Activities**

Last year the main economic activities in Northwest were sale of livestock, livestock products such as milk and butter. The current main income sources are sales of handicraft (artisan products)[26], sales of other small animals and the receipt of gifts (see figure 3). Within the last 12 months animal sales have decreased. In the same period handicraft (sales of Onga) sales have increased. Animal sales have mainly been affected by the increased number of animal deaths. In comparison to the results of the 2006 Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), the sale of animals in the Northwest was still the largest economic activity, but this has fallen drastically. It is also worth noting that the sale of artisan products was not mentioned in the EFSA 2006.

Figure 3: Northwest Economic Activities




**Remittances**

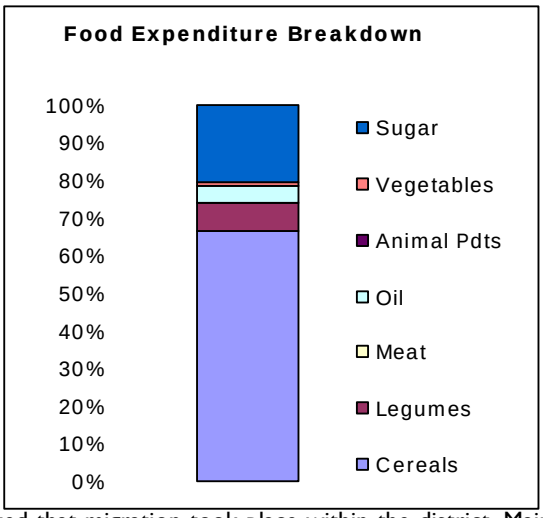
About 75% of interviewees reported that they had not received remittances in the form of cash. Only 25% received directly money transfers. Of those who received monies, 50% indicated that they received less compared to last year. However, 70% report receiving in-kind support in the form of food. The overall decrease of remittances can be explained by the fact that a number of families in the urban areas have a decreased purchasing power due to increased inflation of food and petrol prices. It is also important to note that remittances play an overall less important role in the northern part of Djibouti compared to the other two livelihood zones[27].

[25] FEWSNET, 2004, page 18
[26] Handicraft or artisan products are mainly rugs made out of « onga » leafs. The rugs are sold in Ethiopia or Djibouti and constituted and important income source for poor households (FEWSNET , 2004, page 18)
[27] FEWSNET, 2004, page 10.

**Expenditure Patterns**

In the Northwest households, 36% of total expenditure is spent on food and 64% is spent on non-food items (see figure 4). This expenditure pattern is inconsistent with results of the 2006 EFSA where 64% of their expenditure was on food. This development could be attributed to fact that WFP increased the food distribution in the regions due the worst malnutrition rate. More than 60% of food expenditures is spent on cereals, 20% on sugar. In 2006 food expenditures were similar and which are very typical for pastoralist communities[28].

**Figure 4: Food Expenditure Breakdown**




**Migration**

Households reported that the level of migration in the Northwest with and without animals although quite low (32%). Within focus group discussions it was indicated that migration took place within the district. Main reasons for migration are: search for water (38%), lack of pasture (33%), loss of animals (19%) and to seek another income source (9.5%). According to FEWSNET migration usually takes place from November to February and thus may be why there are very few migrants.

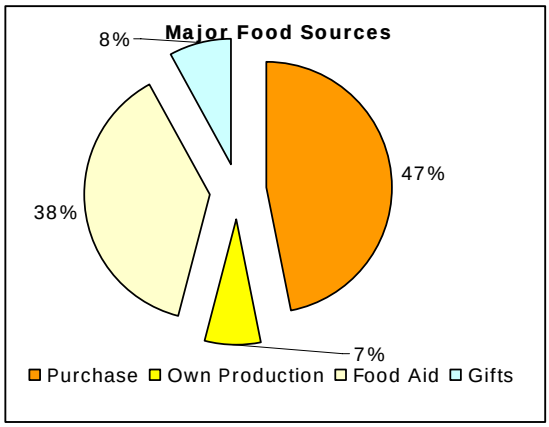
**Shocks**

According to household interviews and focus group discussions, the main shocks in the Northwest Livelihood zone in the last three months were: unusually high prices for food (43.9%), reduced water availability (26.3%), unusually high level of livestock death (14%) and reduction of grazing areas/low pasture quality (10%). Other responses constituted very small percentages (<2%) such as wage cuts and low livestock births. In 2006 similar shocks were mentioned by livelihood which reflects the recurring situation of droughts. However, two years ago population in this region did not mention the increase of food prices as a shock.

**Coping Strategies**

During wealth group discussions almost all people indicated that everybody had been negatively affected by the shocks. According to the households interviewed in the Northwest, the majority could not do anything to compensate this (55%). 15% of interviewed households reduced their quantity of food or/and reduced their overall expenditures (including food expenditures). Only a minority continues to sell their animals (4%) or is migrating. This high percentage of household not being able to compensate the situation can be attributed to fact, that at present, households are facing for the first time the combination of price shocks and droughts.

Figure 5: Major Food Sources




**Consumption and Food Access**

According to household responses, adults and children ate 2 meals the previous day. On average children ate about 2.19 meals per day. In 2006 children ate 2.6 meals per day. For the adults, households indicated that they had 2 meals per day, which is lower than in 2006 (2.5 meals per day). This change can probably attributed to fact that in September 2006 overall livelihood situation was more favorable in the country[29]. The main sources of food at household level

[28] WFP, 2008, page 22
[29] See FEWSNET 2006.

are purchase (47%), food aid (38%), gifts (8%) and own production (7%). Similar to 2006, only a small proportion of food consumed is currently self-produced. As shown in Figure 5, there is a high reliance on market and food aid. Within the Northwest zone there are three main consumption profiles. 34% have poor food consumption, 38% borderline and 28% acceptable consumption patterns. In 2006, the poor consumption group comprised of 34% which indicates the situation is still the same though the borderline consumption group has gone up from 16% in 2006 to 38% in 2008. The poor consumption group relies heavily on food aid, which is very often shared with extended families members. Medium consumption groups relying on markets have deteriorating food access as their income is decreasing and prices. The household in the acceptable consumption group also seems to have deteriorated as this group was about 49% in 2006 and 2008 report 24%.

**Health & Water & Education**

There was no health center at any of the locations visited. According to the wealth group discussion, the main health issues at village level were fever, diarrhea, malaria and in one village tuberculosis. No specific changes were indicated by the interviewed population. The main water sources in all villages visited are unprotected wells/springs, which are used both by humans and animals. In two out of three villages there is a primary school. In Galafi, for example, the ratio between girls and boys is 30:70. In some cases interviewed communities indicated the importance of education for their children.

**Markets**

In Galafi one trader was interviewed. This discussion confirmed that that border markets in Ethiopia remain an important sources of staple food for households in the northern zone. This shopkeeper imports a number of items from Ethiopia, e.g maize, legumes, and paraffin. According to the trader in Galafi overall customer behavior has not changed. He also provides credits to his customers. It is also important to note that Galafi is not representative for entire northern livelihood zone. Galafi is directly located at the boarder to Ethiopia and is well linked to Dikhil via well developed road. The remainder of this zone is very difficult to access and is only partially integrated with markets in Djibouti ville for example.

**Northwest - Food Security Analysis**

Based on the presented results above the following conclusions can be drawn using the conceptual framework as a basis (see table 5). Households in the Northwest Livelihood zone have lost a lot of their physical assets/capital in form of livestock, which is a major part of their livelihood due to drought. The lack of pasture has also had an impact on food acquired from their animals (own production) considering that most of their animals are not able to produce milk and other by-products for their consumption. This has led households to rely on the market which has formed a more substantial food source. The difficulty of shifting their food sources to the market has been compounded by rising prices which has also had a decreased effect on the amount and type of food consumed. Food consumption patterns deteriorated compared to previous years. At present it can be estimated that more than 5000 people are highly food insecure. Lastly, medium wealth group (approximately 6,400 – 8,000 people) are at risk to become highly food insecure and may shift into the poor consumption groups should food prices continue to increase and drought persist in this livelihood zone.

Table 5: Summary of Food Security Analysis

| | |
|---|---|
| Basic causes | Chronic droughts remain a shock affecting the entire population. Price rise has increased the distress on entire population. Overall basic support such health, education, etc. has not improved within last years. Only WFP school feeding and some health programmes provide a safety net to part of the population |
| Livelihood strategies/activities | Through the high number of livestock losses overall livelihood activities have decreased enormously within the last 12 months. By products such as milk and butter are not being produced as livestock is generally to weak. In some parts sales of "onga" ("handicraft") remains important alternative as a cash sources. However, also this activity declined in the last 12 months as demand is decreasing in this zone. |
| Livelihood Assets | Mainly poor and medium Households in the Northwest Livelihood zone have lost the majority of their physical assets in form of livestock which is a major part of their livelihood due to droughts. A common phenomenon in this region. |
| Food Access | For all wealth groups food access has decreased, because prices have increased for the majority of food items. Moreover, markets have shown a decrease of traders as transportation costs are increasingly hindering food flows between urban areas and rural areas. |
| Food availability | Overall food availability is decreasing as livestock is not providing milk nor butter for rural population. Further availability is decreasing in rural areas as small shopkeepers are closing down. |
| Market Functioning | Markets are still functioning in some urban areas, but with lower intensity. This is because overall demand has decreased. Shopkeepers have difficulties in supplying themselves as wholesale prices and transportation costs have increased. Also access to credit remains a major problem for traders, but also for customers in rural areas |
| Food consumption | Food consumption has deteriorated in the last 24 months. Rural households heavily rely on food aid and market purchases. Food access has been limited by increasing prices and reducing purchasing power and recurrent drought and as such, households have been forced to compromise the number of meals as well as type/quality of food consumed. Though the study didn't look at nutrition aspects, it will definitely be affected in the long-term. In the Northwest zone, about 13,000 people are food insecure. |

### 4.2. Central Pastoral Zone

The Central zone is the biggest livelihood zone in terms of geographical coverage and rural population (approx. 50,000). The majority of settlements, villages or towns are either found along the coast or in the mountains. Starting from Lac Assal going southwest the zone is very sparsely populated. This zone is also isolated from the main Djiboutian markets in comparison to the Southeast zone. The two main markets are found in the district capitals Tadjourah and Obock. Both villages are located directly at the sea. According to focus group discussions, this zone has been heavily affected by an unusual decline of livestock due to animal deaths. During the field visits dead goat, donkey and camel corpses were seen. Moreover, according to some interviewees in parts of these zones some areas haven't seen rain for the last two years. It is important to note that within the Obock district, rainfalls were observed during the four days' field visit. Even though the rain quantity may have been small and scattered, this development will certainly have a positive impact on the livestock in the short term. Similar trends are reported in FEWSNET alerts in 2006 and 2007.

**Demographics, Wealth Group Distribution & Characteristics**

The average household size is 8.3 compared to 5.8 reported in 2006 and 79% of households are headed by men and 21% by women (in 2006: 24%). Results of the wealth discussions are shown in table 6. The range for each wealth group for the visited sites is between 10% and 60%. The heterogeneity of visited locations (size, location) is the main reason for this wide range.

**Table 6: Distribution and Range of Wealth of Group for Central Pastoral Zone**

| Distribution and Range of Wealth of Group for Central Pastoral Zone | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Rural Population 49,400** | **Poor** | **Medium** | **Better Off** |
| **in %** | **10 - 50** | **20 - 45** | **20 - 60** |
| **In total numbers** | **4,900 - 24,700** | **9,800 - 22,200** | **9,800 - 29,600** |

However, similarities for each group were found in all sites. During discussions, it was stated that poorer households have lost all their livestock or possess only a very small number of weak livestock. Moreover, according to some key-informants, the main difference compared to the medium or better-off is the amount of livestock and bigger type of animals (see table 7). In Alaili Dada, for example, poor households have less than 5 goats. The better-offs generally have a number of camels (more than 12) and also a substantive number of goats (more than 50). This allows the better-offs to transport material with their camels (if necessary) or to sell goats (at least to the nearby military post).

**Table 7: Livestock Holdings in Central Pastoralist zone.**

| Central Pastoral zone | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Poor** | | **Medium** | | **Better Off** | |
| **2004** | **2008** | **2004** | **2008** | **2004** | **2008** |
| **0-4 Cows; <20 Goats; <3 camels; 0-5 sheep;** | **<5 Cows; <20 Goats; <5 Camels; <5Sheeps** | **<15 cows; <30 goats; <8 Camels; <10 Sheep** | **<10 Camels; <20 Goats; <7 Cows;** | **<60 Cows; <100 goats; <15 Camels; <15 sheep** | **> 10 Camels; >20 Goats; > 10 Cows** |

Source: FEWSNET 2004, EFSA 2008

According to focus-group discussions, poor households have no source of income. This group, characterized by widows, widowers, handicapped or orphans, relies heavily on food assistance either through their extended families or the World Food Programme. During wealth group discussion it became clear that the majority of income activities are concentrated in the better-off population, which often still sells livestock and receives a regular income from the state (pension, salary). In some villages the better-off households will support the remaining community by buying food or other products, if necessary. In some cases medium households are

still aiming to sell some of their livestock to earn some money. However, currently this endeavor is very difficult as animals are weak, prices generally low and no demand exists.

Comparing the FEWSNET information with the EFSA results shows for example that main income sources in general have not changed (see table 8). However, the distribution between these sources has changed. Remittances seem to play a less important role in 2008 compared to 2004. Again, this development can be attributed to fact that purchasing power has decreased in urban areas, from where remittances are sent to rural areas. Figure 6 provides similar patterns.

**Table 8: Main Income Source in 2004 and 2008**

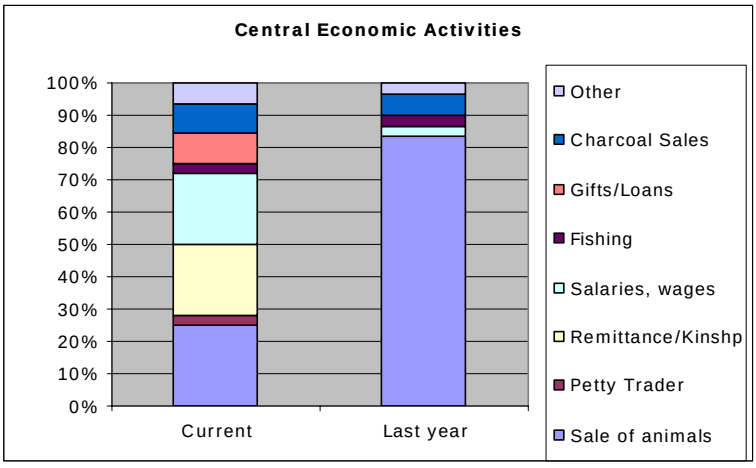
| | Central Pastoral zone |
|---|---|
| **May 2004** | **Sales of Livestock (<30%)**<br>**Receipt of Pensions/ Remittance (40- 80%)**<br>**Sales of Firewood** |
| **May 2008** | **Sales of Livestock (25%)**<br>**Receipt of Remittances/Salaries (40%)**<br>**Sales of charcoal** |

**Source: FEWSNET 2004, EFSA 2008**

**Economic Activities**

Based on the household responses, the main economic activities in central zone are: sale of animals, remittances and salaries and wages as shown in figure 6 below. Compared to the same period last year, the sale of animals has dramatically decreased (from 83% to 25%) and charcoal sales, and wages have increased respectively. Sales of animals have been mainly affected by increased number of animal deaths due to the poor pasture. It is also worth noting that remittances have become a significant source of income for most of the interviewed people in this livelihood zone. Though not a significant source of income in the past year, in 2006 EFSA, remittances were reported as an important income source.

**Figure 6: Central Economic Activities**

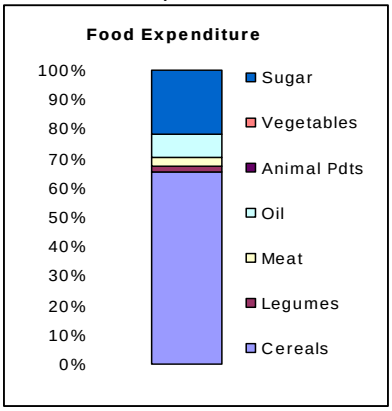



**Remittances**

About 83% of interviewees reported that they had not received cash remittances. 17% received remittances in cash. However, 76% report receiving in-kind support in form of food. Those who received remittances indicated that they received 65% less compared to last year. According to key informants and focus groups discussions, the main reason for the decrease of remittances is due to the overall price increases.

**Expenditure Patterns**

In the Central zone, households, 34% of total expenditures is spent on food. 66% is spent on non-food items. More than 60% of food expenditures are spent on cereals, 20% on sugar (see figure 7). In 2006 food expenditures patterns were similar.




**Migration**

The Central zone reported the lowest migration numbers. About 97% of the respondents reported that no family member had migrated with livestock. During focus group discussions it became clear that migration in this period was not option, because i) most of the animals were to weak for long distances migrating, ii) no Markets are found in Djibouti to sell the animals, and iii) no work opportunities are found in the urban areas. In some cases, it was reported that young men have returned to their families in the North as they haven't found any work opportunities.

**Shocks**

According to household interviews and focus group discussions the main shocks in the Central zone in the last three months were: unusually high level of livestock death (40%), high food prices (28%), high level of livestock diseases (12%) and reduced water availability (10%). Overall 93% of the households indicated that they had been negatively affected by shocks in the last three months. In comparison to the 2006 EFSA, only 30% had been affected by shocks with reduction in pasture for animals as the major shock.

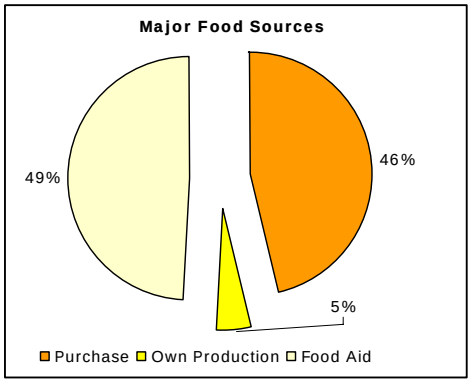
**Coping Strategies**

Unfortunately most of the households negatively affected by shocks reported that nothing could be done to recover from them. About 80% indicated that they had not done anything to compensate this while a few (5.9%) sold animals and reduced food expenditure (4.4%). Only a minority continues to sell their small animals (5.9%). Similar responses were recorded during the EFSA 2006.

**Consumption and Food Access**

According to the household responses, adults and children ate 2 meals the previous day. On average children ate about 2.5 meals per day. In 2006 children ate 2.9 meals per day. For the adults, households indicated that they had 2.3 meals per day, which is lower than in 2006 (2.7 meals per day).

**Figure 8: Major Food Sources**




The main sources of food at household level are purchase (46%), food aid (49%), gifts (5%) and own production (7%). Only a small proportion of food consumed is currently self-produced. As shown in Figure 8, there is a high reliance on markets and food aid. This is still a similar trend in comparison to the 2006 EFSA. Within the Central Pastoralist zone there are three main consumption profiles. 69% have poor food consumption, 4.8% borderline and 26.2% acceptable consumption patterns. In 2006 the majority of households in this zone belonged to the good food consumption group (60%). However, the poor consumption group has increased from 23% in 2006 to 69% in 2008. One explanation derived from the focus group discussion could be that due to high market reliance, households are not in the position to purchase from markets (which have little to offer and products are not affordable for the majority of the rural population. It is important to note that the borderline consumption group has gone up from 5% in 2006 to 16% in 2008.

**Health & Water & Education**

Only two sites (out of five) had a health center. According to the discussion the main health issues at village level were fever, diarrhea, etc. and tuberculosis in one village. In Alayli-Dada the community welcomed the renovation of the health center which provided very good service to the population in this area. However, limited transport capacities and a delay in the delivery of people requiring medical care regularly led to unnecessary casualties. Only one week previously a woman giving birth was sent to the health center too late and she and her baby arrived there dead. In the Central Pastoralist zone the villages visited indicated that they received their water from pipelines, boreholes or protected wells/springs which is similar to what households reported in the 2006 EFSA. In many cases water sources are used both by humans and animals. In two out of five villages visited there was a primary school. The ratio between girls and boys is 30:70 in the villages. In Hedle, the head of the community indicated that he would only send two of his sons to schools. His daughters were not allowed to go to school as girls and boys shared the same dormitories.

**Markets**

Two traders (shopkeepers) interviewed in Wadi and Alaili Dada indicated that they are selling rice, wheat flour and oil. All of them were open the whole week; however business has decreased strongly within the last months due to the increase of prices and slacker demand. In Wadi (four out of five) shopkeepers had to close their business. The trader in Wadi receives his food directly from one supplier located in Djibouti. One trader in Alaili Dada has relatives (brothers) running a small shop in Obock and is directly supplied to him. All traders indicated that prices have increased within the last 12 months. In each case shopkeepers interviewed stated that the main reason for the price increases are due to the overall price increase in the capital city and transport costs increase. Shopkeepers also indicated that overall sales have decreased there within the last 12 months. None of the shopkeepers interviewed provides credits to his/her customers. Shopkeepers themselves currently have no access to credit. Shopkeepers and traders main difficulties of traders are the increased cost of commodities and transport as well as the decrease of households' demand.

**Central - Food Security Analysis**

Households in the Central Livelihood zone are facing similar challenges and shocks as the Northwest livelihood zone. Poor and medium consumption households have lost a lot of their physical assets/capital in form of livestock (which is a major part of their livelihood) due to droughts. The unusual high loss of their livestock has had a negative impact on food acquired from their own production such as milk and butter. Most of medium and acceptable consumption households rely on purchases from the market. The majority of poor consumption households already receive food aid. Similar to the Northern zone, food access has further been constrained by rising prices affecting the amount and type of food consumed. Food consumption patterns seem to have deteriorated compared to previous years, because of the combination of the two shocks (droughts and price increases). Medium wealth groups households (approximately 9,800 - 22,200 people) are found to be food insecure and will probably shift into the poor groups and high food insecurity, should food prices continue to increase and drought persist in this livelihood zone. Highly food insecure people amount to approximately 34,000 people according to the food consumption analysis results.

Table 9: Summary of Food Security Analysis

| | |
|---|---|
| Basic causes | Chronic droughts remain as a main shock affecting this livelihood zone. Price rise has increased the distress mainly on the poor and medium groups. Overall basic support such health, education, etc. has not improved within last years. WFP school feeding and a number of health programmes provide currently a safety net in some parts of this zone. |
| Livelihood strategies/activities | Through the high number of livestock losses, overall livelihood activities have decreased strongly within the last 12months. By products such as milk and butter are not being products as livestock is generally too weak or ill. Furthermore remittances have decreased within the last months. |
| Livelihood Assets | Households in this zone have lost a lot of their physical assets in form of livestock which is a major part of their livelihood due to droughts. |
| Food Access | Food access has decreased, because prices have increased for the majority of food items. Moreover, markets have shown a decrease of traders as transportation costs are increasingly hindering food flows between urban areas and rural areas. In remote areas small shopkeepers have stopped their selling activities. |
| Food availability | Overall food availability is decreasing as livestock is not providing milk nor butter for rural population. Further availability is decreasing in rural areas as small shopkeepers are closing down. |
| Market Functioning | Markets are still functioning in urban areas, but with lower intensity. This is because overall demand has decreased. Shopkeepers have difficulties in supplying themselves as wholesale prices and transportation costs have increased. Also access to credit remains a major problem for traders, but also customers in rural areas |
| Food consumption | Food consumption has deteriorated in the last 24months. Rural households heavily rely on food aid, which is often among the wider family. Based on consumption patterns, about 22,000 people are food insecure. |

### 4.3. Southeast Pastoral Zone

The Southeast Pastoral zone includes the district of Ali Sabieh, half of Arta and the southern part of Dikhil. Approximately 33,000 people live in this zone. Djibouti and Ethiopia are linked by the main-road and the railway, which both run through this zone. Overall the Southeast livelihood zone is the most developed zone due to its good connection to the Djibouti urban centers. According to FEWSNET in 2004 the main rural products sold were camels, goat milk, firewood and charcoal.

**Demographics and Wealth Group Distribution**

The average household size is 6.5 and 56% of households are headed by men and 44% by women. In 2006 the estimated number of people per household was 5.8. Based on the discussions wealth groups ranged approximately 20-30% for poor, 17-40% for medium and 29-50% for better-off households (see table 10).

**Table 10: Distribution and Range of Wealth of Group for Southeast Pastoral**

| Total Rural Population 33,000 | Distribution and Range of Wealth of Group for Southeast Pastoral Zone | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Poor | Medium | Better Off |
| in % | 20 - 33 | 17 - 43 | 29 - 50 |
| In total numbers | 6,600 - 10,800 | 5,600 - 14,100 | 9,500 - 16,500 |

Overall poor households possess less livestock than better offs (see table 11).

**Table 11: Livestock possession characteristic in 2004 and 2008: Southeast Pastoral zone**

| Southeast Pastoral zone | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Poor | | Medium | | Better Off | |
| 2004 | 2008 | 2004 | 2008 | 2004 | 2008 |
| <4 camels, 15-25 Goats | <3 Donkeys < 10 Goats | <3 Camels; 30-50 Goats | <10 Camels 5-10 Goats; | 4-6 camels, 100-120 goats | 30-50 Goats > 30 Camels |

Source: FEWSNET 2004, EFSA 2008

According to the focus group discussions, poor households generally have one income source, mainly livestock. Sales of charcoal and firewood are also important activities conducted by all three wealth groups. One of the reasons for this is the increased demand of charcoal from the urban centers due to the increase of petrol prices within the last 12 months. Interestingly, the sale of milk and butter was specifically not mentioned by the households or the communities interviewed. Based on FEWSNET reports, drought significantly impacted the capacity of milk production of the animals, leading to a decrease in milk sales. Similar patterns were observed for example in Obock (Central zone) and are regularly reported as a sign of food distress within the last years[30].

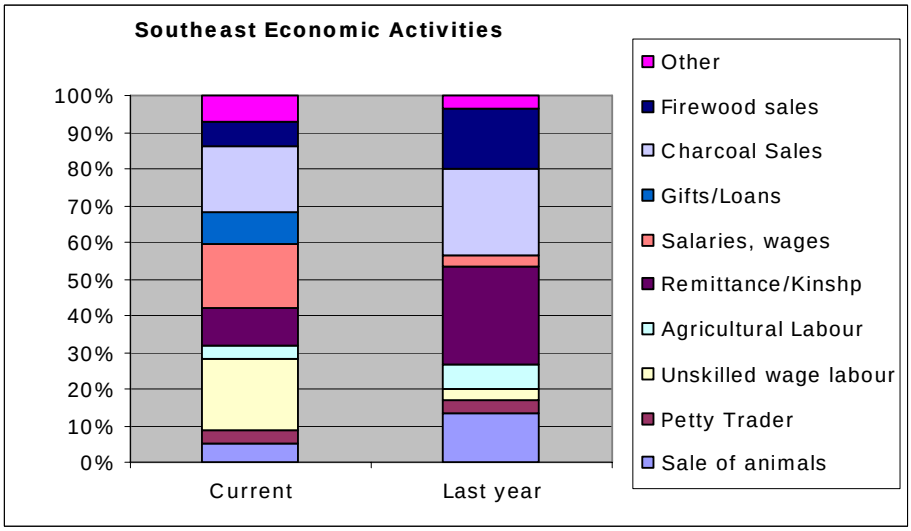
Table 12: Main Income Source in 2004 and 2008

| Southeast Pastoral zone | |
|---|---|
| May 2004 | Sales of Livestock (<30%)<br>Sales of Milk (<20%)<br>Sales of Firewood/ charcoal<br>Receipt of Pensions/ Remittance (60 – 80%)<br>Sales of Fruit |
| May 2008 | Petty trade (4%)<br>Sales of Firewood/ Charcoal (18%)<br>Receipt of Donations<br>Sales of Livestock (13%)<br>Wage labor (17%) |

**Economic Activities**

Income activities in the Southeast are more diversified than in the other two zones, which is in line with the 2006 assessment. Based on the responses, the main economic activities in South Pastoral Zone are: salaries and wages, charcoal sales, unskilled labor[31] (see also figure 9). Within the last 12 months the distribution between the different types of activities has become more balanced, although salaries, labor (unskilled and agricultural) and salaries dominate. The impact of drought is reflected in the decrease of animal sales from 13% to 5% today. According to the EFSA 2006 animal sales and husbandry constituted the main income source.

**Figure 9: Southeast Economic Activities**



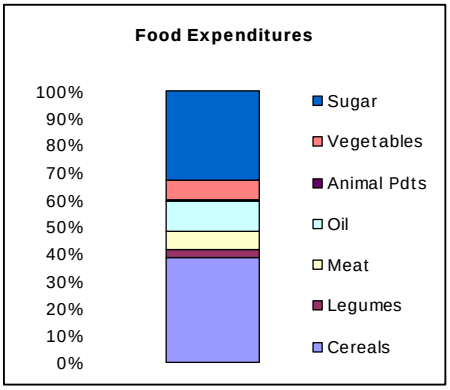

**Remittances**

About 75% of interviewees reported that they had not received cash remittances. 25% received cash remittances. 76% reported receiving in-kind support in form of food. 53% of those who received remittances reported that they received less compared to last year.

**Expenditure Patterns**

In the Southeast, 24% of total expenditure is spent on food. 75% is spent on non-food items. 38.4 % of food expenditures are spent on cereals, 33% on sugar and 11% on oil. In 2006 food expenditures were similar.

**Figure 10: Food Expenditures**




**Migration**

In the Southeast, 90% of the household respondents reported that no family member had migrated with livestock. Focus group discussions provided a different picture. Here all communities indicated that people were migrating in or out of the village, however, the majority was without animals. It can be assumed that people are migrating toward the bigger cities of Dikhil, Ali Sabieh or Djibouti ville to find employment on construction sites.

**Shocks**

According to household interviews and focus group discussions, the main shocks in the Southeast Livelihood zone in the last three months were: unusually high price for food (40.4%), reduced water availability (23.6%)

[30] See FEWSNET alerts

[31] According to key informant discussion, the increased amount of direct foreign investment in Djibouti city has led to a boom of constructions sites, for which unskilled and skilled work forces are necessary.

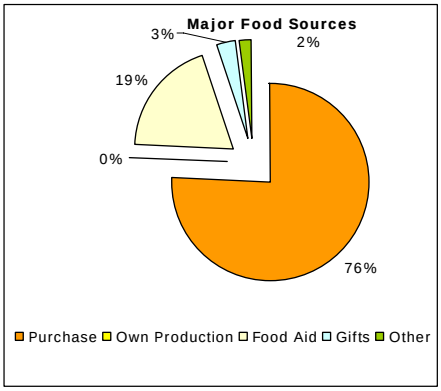
and the unusually high level of livestock deaths (12.4). Overall 85% of the households indicated that they had been negatively affected by shocks in the last three months.

**Coping strategies**

Also in the Southeast a number of the households negatively affected by shocks reported that nothing could be done to recover from them. About 46% indicated that they had not done anything to compensate this while some households (16%) reduced they quantity of food, (12,3%) decreased their expenditures, and (5.5%) continue to sell their animals.

**Consumption and Food Access**

**Figure 11: Major Food Sources**




According to the household responses, adults and children ate 2 meals the previous day. On average children ate about 2.7 meals per day compared to 2.9 meals reported in 2006. For the adults, households indicated that they had 2.7 meals per day, which is the same than in 2006 (2.7 meals per day). The main sources of food at household level are purchase (76%) and food aid (19%). Only a small proportion of food consumed is self-produced or are gifts. Same patterns were observed in 2006. According to the food consumption scores, 31% belong to the poor consumption, 36% to the borderline and 34% food consumption group. In 2006 the majority belonged to the good food consumption group (57%). The poor and borderline consumption groups have gone up from 24% to 31% and 19% to 36% in 2006 and 2008 respectively. This decline can be explained by the fact that food access has deteriorated in this region due to price increases (see also shocks).

**Health & Water & Education**

Most of sites visited do not have a health center (6 out of 9), but many receive regular visits from the mobile medical teams. In some areas they receive weekly visits. According to the focus groups, the main health issues at village level were fever, diarrhea, etc. and overall malnutrition. In the Southeast zone the villages visited reported that they received their water from pipelines or shallow wells (1), boreholes (4) or protected wells/springs (3). Water sources are used both by humans and animals. In five out of nine villages visited there is a primary school. The ratio between girls and boys can vary between 20:80 and 40:60 between the villages. Compared to 2006, the education situation seems to have improved as 60% of communities indicated that they did not have any functioning schools.

**Markets**

The few traders interviewed in the southern zone indicated that rice and sugar are most important food items sold within the last three months. Some of them also stated that their selling volumes of rice have increased within this period. In parallel, they indicated that overall demand has decreased in the last months. At present 3 out of 5 are still able to provide credits to their customers. All traders indicated that prices have increased within the last 12months. In each case shopkeepers interviewed stated that the main reason for the price increases are due to the overall price increase in the capital city and transport costs increase.

**Southwest - Food Security Analysis**

Households in the Southeast Livelihood zone have the most diversified livelihood activities of the three zones in the country but even these have been negatively affected by recurring drought and increasing prices. Livestock sales have reduced due to weak animals, remittances have reduced to increasing prices, and in turn consumption through markets has been compromised both in terms of quantity and quality due to less income. Migration which is one of their coping strategies has been constrained by limited or no pasture and water. It can be concluded that households' nutritional status has also been negatively affected by this cycle of events. Also in this zone the medium wealth group households (approximately 5,600 - 14,100 people) are found to be at risk to become highly food insecure and could shift into the poor consumption groups, should food prices continue to increase. At present approximately 10,000 highly food insecure people are found in this zone. In contrast to the Central and Northeast Zone it is important to note that this zone shows more alternative income activities and in May 2008 rain has been registered in this region.

Table 13: Summary of Food Security Analysis

| | |
|---|---|
| Basic causes | Chronic droughts remain as a shock affecting the population in the Southeast. Food and energy price rise has also impacted the entire population. Overall basic support such health, education, etc. has not improved within last years. |
| Livelihood strategies/activities | This zone is the most diversified in terms of livelihood activities but these have still been eroded by continuous drought and of recent rising prices. The region is closest to Djibouti urban centre and heavily relies on markets and remittances. Household's purchasing power has reduced due to rising prices. Remittances from urban centres have also reduced due to rising prices and it has now become a cycle since they are now receiving less or not at all. The results also show that alternative income sources are found in urban centers. Better-offs and medium households found wage labor at construction sites in Dikhil, Ali Sabieh or Djibouti city. |
| Livelihood Assets | Though sales of livestock are a small contributor to their economic activities in this zone compared to other zones, the south east has lost a lot of their livestock due to the drought. Migration with animals has been limited due to no alternatives for pasture and water because all other areas are dry as well. This has created a cycle of less or no animals/animal products, less income and less/poor consumption. |
| Food Access | The Southeast is heavily dependant on the market for food. However, as seen from above, most of the income sources such as sale of livestock and remittance have reduced either due to continuous drought or rising prices. As a result, households' food access has been compromised. |
| Food availability | Overall food availability is decreasing as livestock is not providing milk nor butter for rural population. |
| Market Functioning | Markets are still functioning in urban areas, but with low intensity. This is because overall demand has decreased. Shopkeepers have difficulties in supplying themselves as wholesale prices and transportation costs have increased. Also access to credit remains a problem for traders and customers. It should be noted that government has tried to intervene in setting of prices of some basic commodities; however, enforcement is still a major issue. |
| Food consumption | A combination of all the above factors has affected consumption of households in this zone. Food access has been limited due to increasing prices and reducing purchasing power and recurrent drought and as such, households have been forced to compromise the number of meals as well as type of food consumed. Though the study didn't look at nutrition aspects, it will definitely be affected in the long-term. About 14,000 people are food insecure in this zone. |

### 4.4. Population Affected

The previous sections provided estimations of wealth group distribution for each livelihood zone in the rural areas for May 2008. The estimations are derived from the focus group/wealth group discussions and triangulated with the results of the household survey. It is recognized that these ranges can only be an approximation and are statistically not representative. However, these numbers provide a quantitative tendency which is supported by qualitative data collected in the field. The total population for the rural zone is estimated at approx 99,000[32]. Based on the result of focus group discussions and the household survey it can be assumed that the range of people being currently within the poor and medium wealth groups is approximately 37,000 – 86,000 (see table 14), which represents the population being most affect by the shocks and being food insecure or highly food insecure.

**Table 14: Overall Distribution and Range of Wealth of Groups in Rural Djibouti**

| Wealth Group | Poor | Medium | Better Off |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total number | 16,000 -41,000 | 21,000 - 45,000 | 21,000 - 51,000 |

Similar estimations were derived using the food consumption score as a proxy. Around 50,000 people and 20,000 people with poor and borderline diets were calculated (see table 15 below)[33]. Hence, a mid-point of approximately 70,000 people[34] being currently at highly food insecure or moderately food insecure can be derived from both calculations.

**Table 15: Food Consumption Groups in % and total figures**

| EFSA 2008: Food Consumption Score | Unit | Poor | Borderline | Acceptable |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northwest Livelihood Zone | In % | 35 | 38 | 28 |
| Central Livelihood Zone[35] | | 69 | 5 | 27 |
| Southeast Livelihood Zone | | 30 | 36 | 34 |
| Northwest Livelihood Zone | number | 5,500 | 6,100 | 4,400 |
| Central Livelihood Zone | | 34,100 | 2,300 | 12,900 |
| Southeast Livelihood Zone | | 10,000 | 11,700 | 11,100 |
| Total | | 49,600 | 20,100 | 28,400 |

Hence, as WFP is currently providing food assistance to approximately 53,000 beneficiaries being highly food insecure, a total of approximately of 15,000 - 20,000 extra people can be assumed to be in need of food assistance between the end of the lean season (June – August 2008) and January/February 2009 (End of Heys/Dada season). This additional assistance should provide enough support to medium/borderline households to scale up their livestock during this period. Based on the assumption that medium households possess around 10 goats (7female, 3male), it can be assumed that by end of February 2009, the number of goats can double. It is also important to underline that goats are seasonal breeders, the milk supply may be short for 2-3 months during the late fall and winter months. Hence, household support in this period is crucial.

[32] WFP, 2008. Northwest Livelihood Zone (16,096), Central Livelihood Zone (49,462), Southeast Livelihood Zone (33,001), excluding "chefs-lieux" (cities, and big villages - >5000 population)
[33] See annex for food score calculations
[34] Estimation differences (10.000 people) between FEWSNET and this EFSA are probably due to the use of different baseline figures. WFP estimates the percentages of rural population affected by both shocks at approx. 70%, whereas FEWSNET at 63%.
[35] The percentage for poor consumption groups can be explained by the fact that household only recently received pulses (beans) through food aid distributions

## 5. Conclusions

Based on the results of the household survey, focus group and wealth group discussions, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The combination of price increases and drought has led to an overall decrease in livelihood activities in the Northern and Central region compared to 2004 and 2006;
- In Southern regions income activities have remained the same, except for livestock activities which have also decreased.
- Remittances in-kind and cash towards rural areas have decreased, because of declining purchasing power of family members who work in urban areas which could be attributed to high prices. It is also important to note that focus group discussion did not support the general perception that "remittances are most important source of income in Central Pastoral Zone"[36]. It is also important to note that remittances play an overall less important role in the northern part of Djibouti compared to the other two livelihood zones[37].
- Migration (with and without livestock) in the central and northern livelihood zones is very limited, because of decrease pasture and lack of water sources.
- Sale of animals is a major economic activity for the better off consumption group but based on the focus groups and shocks reported, this has significantly dropped and this could cause them to slip into distress quite fast.
- Markets show an overall decrease of demand and increase prices for all commodities. Access to credit remains very difficult for traders and customers. This trend is more obvious in the North and Central zone than in the Southern parts of Djibouti.
- The part of the population most affected consists of people without or with one livelihood activity, with very low number of livestock (less than 12) and only weak family support. These people are often widows or widowers, orphans or handicapped people whose food consumption score is very low. Hence, possible targeting criteria for WFP programming are:
  - Women headed households who have lost their husband (or permanently ill, etc) and depend on neighbors and poor relatives for their survival, and with no livestock or very limited number of animals (e.g. <12 Goats),
  - Elderly headed households, especially those supporting children and having limited support from other family members,
  - Households with a permanently ill adult member and with no livestock or very limited number of animals (e.g. <12 Goats), no remittances and/or limited support from relatives; and
  - Households who have lost all their livestock or with very limited number of animals (Northwest: <10 Goats; no camels; Central: <20 Goats, <10 Camels; Southeast :<10 Goats; <5 Camels).
- Specifically medium wealth population in the Northwest and central zone is at risk of falling into the category of poor households if food prices continue to increase, droughts persist and no additional economic activities are at hand. This will also directly affect the diet of these households.
- A very low proportion of households with acceptable consumption patterns have sale of artisan products (mainly in the North) and charcoal sales as their economic activities
- A higher proportion of the poor consumption group reported other activities (unspecified) as their main income activity, which could be a sign of distress.
- There is a significantly higher proportion of poor consumption households (69%) in the Central livelihood Zone compared to other two zones.
- In contrast to the Central and Northeast Zone it is important to note that the Southeast livelihood zone shows more alternative income activities and in May 2008 rain has been registered in this region.

[36] FEWSNET, 2004, page 10.
[37] FEWSNET, 2004, page 10.

- At present it can be assumed that around 37,000 – 80,000 people belong to the poor and medium group based on the results of the wealth group discussions or the household questionnaires.

Secondary data analysis in this report:

- shows a number of information inconsistencies in the FEWSNET food security alerts between 2004 and 2008;
- that due to unreliable population figures, estimates are very difficult to derive; and
- that drought is a recurring event in this region and that short rain periods can alleviate population from food insecurity[38].

[38] See FEWSNET alert December 2006,

## 6. Recommendations and Next Steps

Since the beginning of 2007, WFP with its partners has been assisting more then 50,000 beneficiaries through protracted relief and recovery operations. The results of the EFSA 2008 have shown that the livelihood and food security situation has changed within the last 12months. The entire population of Djibouti has been affected by the price rise and all rural population is suffering from enduring drought. Both shocks have had an impact on the livelihood activities and food consumption. Due to these developments, it can be assumed that the range of people being currently within the poor and medium wealth groups is approximately 37,000 – 80,000. Both groups are highly vulnerable to the prices shocks as well demonstrate poor or borderline consumption patterns. Based on the results of this study, it is recommended that an additional 15,000 – 20,000 people are assisted between the end of the lean season (June – August 2008) and January/February 2009 (End of Heys/Dada season), in all three zones amounting to total of 70,000 beneficiaries (see table 16). Assuming that rain and pastoral conditions will improve within the next 6-9 months allowing rural communities to recover from the shocks the following programming interventions are recommended:

- Recommendation 1: Continuation of general food distribution (full ration in Northwest and Central zone and half ration in the Southern zone[39]) until the end of the January/February 2009 for all poor households in all three livelihood zones;
- Recommendation 2: In addition to the poor wealth group, between the 2008 lean period (June – August) and the end of next January/February 2009 (End of Heys/Dada Season) provide a general distribution to the medium wealth group in all livelihood zones (full ration in Northwest and Central zone and half ration in the Southern zone[40]) ;
- Recommendation 3: Continue to support school feeding programmes in all three livelihood zones; and
- Recommendation 4: At the end of the general distribution, programming will move to other response options such as FFW/A as recommended by the Programme review mission in 2007.

As table 16 shows, the total ration for General Food Distribution for the targeted population between June 2008 and February 2009 is 8,884MT.

**Table 16: Total Ration in mt between June 2008 and February 2009**

| Zone | Total Population with Poor and borderline Food Consumption | Daily Ration g/person/day | Total Ration June 08 – Feb 09 for GFD in MT |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Northwest Zone** | **11,600** | **555** | **1,751** |
| **Central Zone** | **36,400** | **555** | **5,495** |
| **Southeast Zone** | **21,700** | **278** | **1,638** |
| **Total** | **69,700** | | **8,884** |

It should be noted that the assessment was carried out when schools were closed but several respondents indicated that they rely on the School Feeding programme especially for the children. The school feeding programme is to continue in all rural areas as planned.

Targeting criteria are:

- Women headed households who have lost their husband (or permanently ill, etc) and depend on neighbors and poor relatives for their survival, and with no livestock or very limited number of animals (e.g. <12 Goats),
- Elderly headed households, especially those supporting children and having limited support from other family members,

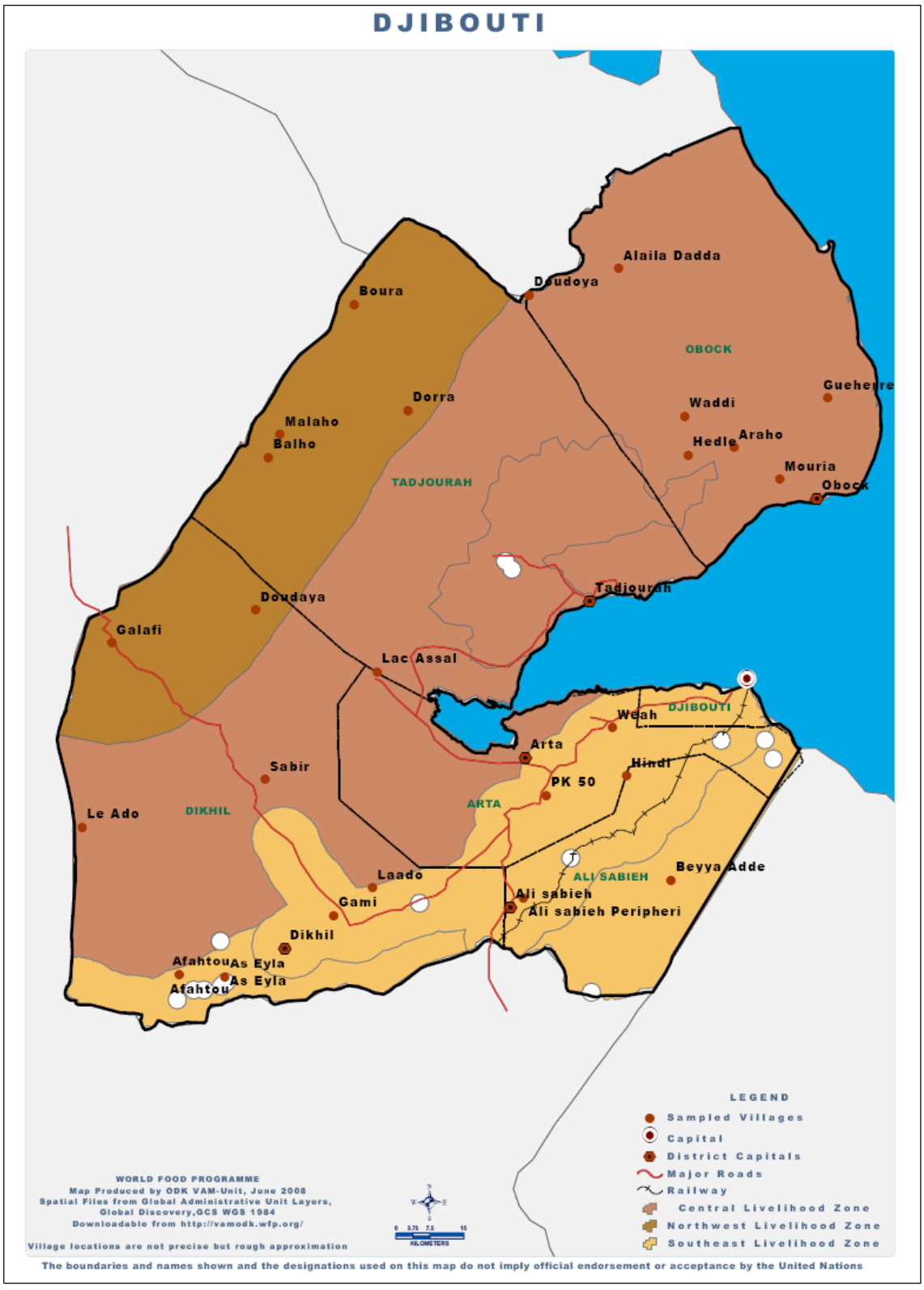
[39] for details see Annex 6; The total ration for General Food Distribution for the targeted population over the next 9 months is 8,884MT.
[40] for details see Annex 6

- Households with a permanently ill adult member and with no livestock or very limited number of animals (e.g. <12 Goats), no remittances and/or limited support from relatives; and
- Households who have lost all their livestock or with very limited number of animals (Northwest: <10 Goats; no camels; Central: <20 Goats, <10 Camels; Southeast :<10 Goats; <5 Camels).

Furthermore it is recommended to conduct:

- A joint urban assessment with FEWSNET (as anticipated) to analyze the impact of price increases on household food security. This assessment should also help to have a better understanding of urban household profiles and their coping mechanism due to this shock; and
- A regional market study to assess the cross-border trade between Ethiopian, Djibouti and Somaliland.

**Annex 1: Map of Djibouti (including visited locations)**



**Annex 2:**

**How the weights were determined**

As indicated the in the VAM guidelines: "When creating a composite scoring system for dietary diversity (with or without the added dimension of food frequency), the choice of weights is obligatory and subjective. Weights are typically constant across analyses in order to have a better degree of standardization of the tool. … The guiding principle for determining the weights is the nutrient density of the food groups. The highest weight was attached to foods with relatively high energy, good quality protein and a wide range of micro-nutrients that can be easily absorbed.". The following weights were used for the calculations:

| Food groups | Weight | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| Main staples | 2 | Energy dense/usually eaten in larger quantities, protein content lower and poorer quality (PER[41] less) than legumes, micro-nutrients (bound by phytates). |
| Pulses | 3 | Energy dense, high amounts of protein but of lower quality (PER less) than meats, micro-nutrients (inhibited by phytates), low fat. |
| Vegetables | 1 | Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients |
| Fruit | 1 | Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients |
| Meat and fish | 4 | Highest quality protein, easily absorbable micro-nutrients (no phytates), energy dense, fat. Even when consumed in small quantities, improvements to the quality of diet are large. |
| Milk | 4 | Highest quality protein, micro-nutrients, vitamin A, energy. However, milk could be consumed only in very small amounts and should then be treated as condiment and therefore re-classification in such cases is needed. |
| Sugar | 0.5 | Empty calories. Usually consumed in small quantities. |
| Oil | 0.5 | Energy dense but usually no other micro-nutrients. Usually consumed in small quantities |
| Condiments | 0 | These foods are by definition eaten in very small quantities and not considered to have an important impact on overall diet. |

**The FCG cut-offs are as follows:**

| FCS | Profiles |
|---|---|
| 0-21 | Poor |
| 21.5-35 | Borderline |
| > 35 | Acceptable |

Even though a commonly encountered complication is found in populations where consumption of sugar and/or oil is frequent among nearly all households surveyed, even when the consumption of other food groups is rare and the food score is otherwise low. Djiboutian population also does not display a homogenous pattern of oil and sugar consumption.

[41] PER Protein Efficiency Ratio, a measure of protein quality of food proteins.

**Annex 3**

| | Distribution of wealth by Livelihood zone | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Wealth Group in % | | | Poor | | Medium | | Better Off | |
| Zone | Poor | Medium | Better Off | Livestock | No. and type of Income sources | Livestock | No. and type of Income sources | Livestock | No. and type of Income sources |
| Northwest | 90 | 5 | 5 | <5 Goats | (1) handicraft | n.a | n.a | >5 Camels ; >50 Goats | (1) livestock |
| | 30 | 40 | 30 | <5 Goats; <2 Donkeys | (2) handicraft/remittances | <5 Camels; 5-10 Goats | (2) Livestock/ handicraft | >10 Goats | (2) livestock - remittances |
| | 35 | 55 | 10 | <5 Sheeps | (2) handicraft/palm wine | <5 Goats; <2 Donkeys; <2 Camels | (2) handicraft/palm wine | n.a | n.a |
| | 30 | 50 | 20 | 10 -20 sheeps | null | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a |
| Central | 18 | 45 | 36 | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a | | |
| | 10 | 30 | 60 | <5 Camels; <20 Goats; <5Sheeps | null | 5-10 Camels; 10-20 Goats; 5-7 Cows | null | > 10 Camels; >20 Goats; > 10 Cows | (2) pensions/ livestock/ remittances |
| | 30 | 20 | 50 | | null | n.a | n.a | Camels, Goats, Cows | (2) livestock/salaries |
| | 50 | 30 | 20 | <5 Goats | null | Goats, camels | (2) Livestock - Remittances | > 12 Camels; > 50 Goats | (3) livestock/ salaries/remittances |
| | 40 | 30 | 30 | <5 Goats; <5 Cows | null | 5-10 Goats& Camels & sheeps | n.a | n.a | n.a |
| SouthEast | | | | <3 Donkeys | (1) petty trade | n.a | n.a | null | (4) trade / salaries/ firewood /constuction |
| | | | | <5 Goats | (1) firewood | 3-8 Goats | (1) firewood | n.a | n.a |
| | 32 | 26 | 42 | 10 - 25 Goats | (1) donations | Sheeps | | >7 Goats | (2) pensions / livestock |
| | 38 | 63 | 0 | <5 Goats | (2) livestock/firewood | 3-5 Goats | (2) livestock/ firewood | n.a | n.a |
| | 25 | 74 | 2 | 20-30 Goats | (1) donations | 30 - 40 Goats & Camels | (3) Livestock/Firewood/Charcoal | 30-50 Goats / 2 Camels | (2) - pensions / livestock |
| | | | | 1-5 Goats | (1) family support | 7- 10 Goats | (1) Livestock | >15 Goats | (3) pensions / livestock/firewood |
| | 29 | 43 | 29 | < 10 Goats | (2) livestock/ firewood | n.a | n.a | n.a | n.a |
| | 33 | 17 | 50 | null | (2) firewood/ donations | 5-10 Goats ; Camels | (1) Remittances | > 30 Camels / > 600 Goats | (3) livestock / firewood/ salaries |
| | 9 | 21 | 70 | <15 Camels; <10 Cows; <50 Goats; <20 Sheeps | (2) livestock - remittances | n.a | n.a | > 300 Goats/Sheeps; >200 Camels | (3) remittances/ livestock/charcoal |
| | 19 | 2 | 79 | <20Goats | (1) charcoal | 10-20Goats | (2) livestock/ Charcoal | n.a | n.a |

**Annex 4**

| Year | Livelihood Zones | Seasons | | | Numbers Affected |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Heys/Dada<br>November - February | Diraa/Sougoum<br>March - May | Karan/Karma<br>June - October | |
| 2004 | Northwest Zone | | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Poor rains<br>• Possible increase in staple food prices | | 11,350 |
| | Southeast Zone | | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Poor rains<br>• Possible increase in staple food prices | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Poor rains<br>• Low milk production due to poor pasture | |
| | Central Zone | | | | |
| 2005 | Northwest Zone | **Highly Food Insecure**<br>• Successive Poor rains<br>• Poor rains<br>• Poor pasture<br>• Early migration | | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Improved rains<br>• Browse and water availability still low<br>• Reduced labour opportunities | 47,500 |
| | Southeast Zone | **Highly Food Insecure**<br>• Successive Poor rains<br>• Poor rains<br>• Poor pasture<br>• Early migration | | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Improved rains<br>• Browse and water availability still low<br>• Reduced labour opportunities | |
| | Central Zone | | | **Food Insecure**<br>• Improved rains<br>• Browse and water availability still low<br>• Reduced labour opportunities<br>• Migration to coastal grazing areas | |
| 2006 | Northwest Zone | | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Successive failures of the main season rains and prolonged droughts in most livestock dependent areas<br>• Water Shortages in catchments areas<br>• Distress Migration | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Delayed Karan rains<br>• Limited pasture and water for pastoralists<br>• Physical condition of animals is poor hence low livestock sales | 150,000 under threat in rural areas 70,000 in urban areas affected |
| | Southeast Zone | | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Successive failures of the main season rains and prolonged droughts in most | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Delayed rains<br>• Limited pasture and water for | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | livestock dependent areas<br>• Water Shortages in catchments areas<br>• Distress Migration | pastoralists<br>• Physical condition of animals is poor<br>• Deteriorating urban food security due to increase in the cost of food basket | |
| | **Central Zone** | | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Successive failures of the main season rains and prolonged droughts in most livestock dependent areas<br>• Water Shortages in catchments areas<br>• Distress Migration | **Food Insecure**<br>• Limited pasture and water for pastoralists<br>• Physical condition of animals is poor | |
| **2007** | **Northwest Zone** | **Highly Food Insecure**<br>• Increase in cereal prices hence increase in cost of food basket mostly for urban households<br>• Higher transport costs due to increase in fuel prices<br>• Poor 2006 Karan rains | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Pasture and water in short supply<br>• Late start of 2007 Diraa rains<br>• High prices<br>• Drought Appeal by Government | **Highly Food Insecure**<br>• Poor Diraa and delayed 2006 Karan rains<br>• Limited pasture and water for pastoralists<br>• Physical condition of animals still poor<br>• Low milk production<br>• Increased staple prices<br>• 2007 Karan rains on time although intensity is below normal | |
| | **Southeast Zone** | **Highly Food Insecure**<br>• Increase in cereal prices hence increase in cost of food basket mostly for urban households<br>• Higher transport costs due to increase in fuel prices<br>• Poor 2006 Karan rains<br>• | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Pasture and water in short supply<br>• Late start of 2007 Diraa rains<br>• High prices<br>• Drought Appeal by Government | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Pasture and water in short supply<br>• Poor Diraa and delayed 2006 Karan rains<br>• 2007 Karan rains on time although intensity is below normal | |
| | **Central Zone** | **Highly Food Insecure**<br>• Increase in cereal prices hence increase in cost of food basket mostly for urban households<br>• Higher transport costs due to increase in fuel price | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Pasture and water in short supply<br>• High prices<br>• Drought Appeal by Government | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Pasture and water in short supply<br>• Poor Diraa and delayed 2006 Karan rains<br>• 2007 Karan rains on time although intensity is below normal | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | • Poor 2006 Karan rains | | • Increased staple prices<br>• Favourable end of Karan rains hence improved pasture and water | |
| **2008** | **Northwest Zone** | **Extremely Food Insecure**<br>• Failure of coastal rains affecting<br>• Malnutrition rates above emergency threshold | **Extremely Food Insecure**<br>• Late rains<br>• Poor pasture<br>• Poor livestock body conditions<br>• High and increasing prices of staple foods | | **55,000 – 80,000 (in rural areas)** |
| | **Southeast Zone** | **Extremely Food Insecure**<br>• Failure of coastal rains affecting<br>• Malnutrition rates above emergency threshold<br>• High and increasing prices of staple foods | **Extremely Food Insecure**<br>• Late rains<br>• Poor pasture<br>• Poor livestock body conditions<br>• High and increasing prices of staple foods | | |
| | **Central Zone** | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Failure of coastal rains<br>• Malnutrition rates above emergency threshold<br>• High and increasing prices of staple foods | **Moderately Food Insecure**<br>• Late rains<br>• Poor pasture<br>• Poor livestock body conditions<br>• High and increasing prices of staple foods | | |

**Source: FEWSNET Alerts and Reports**

**Annex 5: Field Data Collection - Methodology**

Field data was collected using four different instruments i) Focus groups Discussion, ii) Wealth Group discussion, iii) Household Survey and iv) Traders survey. Focus group discussion and wealth group also used proportional techniques in order to capture wealth distribution within visited communities. The following describes the detailed steps on how each instrument was applied.

**General:**

1. Visited sites were selected using a 2-stage sampling. A total of 30 sites were selected.
2. Three teams were created covering each one or two livelihood zones. Each team consisted of one team leader, three enumerators and one driver. Data collection duration was estimated at 7 days, with each team visiting up to two sites per day.
3. Before beginning data collection in the field each team presented itself to the district governor to explain the purpose of the assessment and to get permission to conduct the assessment. This step was also enabling each team to verify if selected locations where accessible or not.
4. Once the assessment team arrived at a site the team leaders introduced the whole team to head of village and explain the purpose of the visit.
5. Where logistically feasible the entire team started with the focus group discussions. In some cases the team had to wait until the entire community was assembled to begin with the discussions. In these situations one or two team members would start with household survey selecting randomly households located in walking distance (up to 500m) from the focus group discussion point.

**Focus group discussions/Wealth Group interviews:**

The focus group and wealth group discussions represented the key element in this EFSA. It helped to identify the different wealth groups and their proportion within the site visited (rural and urban). It also guided the discussions on the changes which occurred within the last 12 months.

1. Once the entire community was present, two team members conducted the focus group discussion. One team member was leading the discussion. The other was taking notes and completing the questionnaire.
2. Where possible a focus group discussion with men and women was held separately.
3. The proportional pilling approach was generally applied at the end of the discussion aiming to have a clear understanding of the distribution of wealth (poor, medium and better-off) within the community.
4. Based on this information the team interviewed separately each wealth group.

**Household Survey**

The household questionnaire filled in the gaps by complementing the focus group, wealth group and traders' questionnaire. These gaps are detailed information on food consumption and expenditures, income and food source, and coping mechanisms. Up to ten households were randomly selected within the community. If community was spread over a wide area, household interviews started once the team arrived at the site to save time. In this case the driver with one enumerator drove to the different households. Where the community was located at one point (range 200-300m) interviews begun generally after the focus group discussion.

**Traders Survey**

The traders' questionnaire provided information on food access and availability on the different markets. It also provided information on access to credit for traders as well as on access to credit for their customers. Moreover, discussions with traders helped to better understand how the current

market functions and the behavior of customers in the urban areas as well as in some rural communities. It is important to note that only a small number of traders where interviewed during the assessment. There are two reasons for this. First traders (small shop keepers) are rarely found in the remote areas. Second, due to the sudden stop of the assessment it was impossible to interview traders in the capital districts as well as in Djibouti city.

**Annex 6**

**Food Consumption Profiles**

| Food consumption group | n (Sample) | Percentage | Brief Description of Profile |
|---|---|---|---|
| Poor consumption | 57 | 44% | Households in this group consumed cereal about 6 times, oil and sugar 4 times in 7 days respectively. There is a very low consumption of meat and pulses This group seems to experience difficulties meeting their food needs and are possibly highly reliant on food aid as most of these items are part of the WFP food basket. They have an average of 2 meals a day<br>A high proportion of this group have sale of artisan products and charcoal sales as their main income activity |
| Borderline consumption | 34 | 26% | This profile consumes cereals, oil and sugar about 6 times out of 7 days, have pulses and vegetables at least once in 7 days. Households in this category have an average of 2.5 meals a day. A significant proportion of this profile rely of salaries and wages as well as unskilled wage labour for their income |
| Acceptable Consumption | 39 | 30% | In general the households in this group consume cereals7 times in the previous seven days. They also consume oils and sugar 5 days in seven days and have meat and pulses atleast once in 7 days. The major income activity for this profile is sale of animals. |

**Annex 6**

The recommended ration per person per day for targeted relief distribution should be composed of 400 gr of Cereals, 50 gr of CSB, 60g of Pulses, 25g of Vegetable Oil and 20g of Sugar. This ration accounts for a total of 2,100 kcal per person per day (see tables below). The ration and tonnage for the interventions over the next 6-8 months is as follows:

Ration Contents for Northwest and central livelihood zone from June 2008 to February 2009

| RATION CONTENTS | DAILY RATION g/person/day | ENERGY kcal | PROTEIN g | FAT g | CALCIUM mg | IRON mg | IODINE µg | VIT. A µg RE | THIAMINE mg | RIBOFLAVIN mg | NIACIN mg NE | VIT. C mg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MAIZE MEAL, YELLOW, WHOLE GRAIN | 400 | 1,440 | 36.0 | 14.0 | 24 | 9.5 | 0 | 564 | 1.54 | 0.80 | 8.0 | 0 |
| BEANS, DRIED | 60 | 201 | 12.0 | 0.7 | 86 | 4.9 | 0 | 0 | 0.30 | 0.13 | 3.7 | 0 |
| OIL, VEGETABLE (WFP SPECS.) | 25 | 221 | 0.0 | 25.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 225 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 |
| CORN SOY BLEND (WFP SPECS.) | 50 | 200 | 9.0 | 3.0 | 90 | 6.4 | 1 | 251 | 0.22 | 0.35 | 5.0 | 25 |
| SUGAR | 20 | 80 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Ration total | **555** | **2,142** | **57.0** | **42.7** | **200** | **20.9** | **1** | **1,040** | **2.06** | **1.28** | **16.7** | **25** |

Source: NutVal 2006, WFP

Ration Contents for Southeast livelihood zone from June 2008 to February 2009

| RATION CONTENTS | DAILY RATION g/person/day | ENERGY kcal | PROTEIN g | FAT g | CALCIUM mg | IRON mg | IODINE µg | VIT. A µg RE | THIAMINE mg | RIBOFLAVIN mg | NIACIN mg NE | VIT. C mg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MAIZE MEAL, YELLOW, WHOLE GRAIN | 200 | 720 | 18.0 | 7.0 | 12 | 4.8 | 0 | 282 | 0.77 | 0.40 | 4.0 | 0 |
| BEANS, DRIED | 30 | 101 | 6.0 | 0.4 | 43 | 2.5 | 0 | 0 | 0.15 | 0.07 | 1.9 | 0 |
| OIL, VEGETABLE (WFP SPECS.) | 13 | 111 | 0.0 | 12.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 113 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 |
| CORN SOY BLEND (WFP SPECS.) | 25 | 100 | 4.5 | 1.5 | 45 | 3.2 | 0 | 125 | 0.11 | 0.17 | 2.5 | 12 |
| SUGAR | 10 | 40 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Ration total | 278 | 1,071 | 28.5 | 21.4 | 100 | 10.4 | 0 | 520 | 1.03 | 0.64 | 8.3 | 12 |

Source: NutVal 2006, WFP

The total ration for General Food Distribution for the targeted population over the next 9 months is 8,884MT.

Total Ration in mt between June 2008 and February 2009

| Zone | Population with Poor and borderline Food Consumption | Daily Ration g/person/day | Total Ration June 08 – Feb 09 for GFD in MT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northwest Zone | 11,600 | 555 | 1,751 |
| Central Zone | 36,400 | 555 | 5,495 |
| Southeast Zone | 21,700 | 278 | 1,638 |
| Total | 69,700 | | 8,884 |

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