

MIGRATORY PEST SITUATIONS IN NORTH SOMALIA



March, 2016

1.0 GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE SITUATION

To begin with, the Desert Locust and other Migratory Pests situation report continued to remain calm during March, 2016 throughout the different regions of the country.

Survey operations that were carried out during early of the month and diverse communications that has been made with different stakeholders among the **Community Based Desert Locust Information Network (CBDLIN)** among them are local residents in the desert locust prone regions stipulated the absence of locust activities in their respective regions.

This is due to the extreme drought conditions that deteriorated and intensified in both the potential breeding habitats in the coastal plains and the secondary breeding habitats in the plateau and escarpment that hit all the regions comprised by Somaliland and both human and livestock casualties were confirmed.

Generally, the rainfall performance and progression in Northwestern regions greatly exacerbated and no rain has occurred as recorded by both **Automatic and Synoptic Rain gauge Stations Network (ASRSN)** and depicted by satellite-derived rainfall images of **International Research Institute (IRI)**.

The diverse vegetation complexes are entirely dry to drying throughout the country and not favorable for any Desert Locust breeding and development.

It is noteworthy to mention, that Puntland regional state, central and Southern regions of Somalia received no rain and vegetation conditions remained largely dry.

2.0 WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

The weather conditions in Northwestern regions remained largely dry during the last couple of months and rains disrupted completely throughout the entire regions of the country as recorded by the **Automatic and Synoptic Rain gauge Stations Network (ASRSN)** and depicted by Satellite-derived rainfall images.

This is due to the protracted and intensified drought that hit most of Northwestern regions of Somaliland and Northeastern regions of Puntland and parts of Southern Somalia.

Local sources confirmed that a dozen of people died particularly, children and starved to death in coastal regions of Northwestern Somaliland due to severe malnutrition associated with diseases and lack of water, whilst additional score of deaths were reported in Southern regions of Somalia due to diarrhea, particularly in **Afgooye** as indicated by local media.

An estimated population of **4.7 million** people nearly 40% of the Somali population persistently faced high and alarming level of food insecurity and malnutrition and is in dire need of humanitarian assistance and 3.7 million people will be acutely food insecure

through mid-2016. The level of malnutrition, among children is of a serious concern, with nearly, 305,000 children under the age of five are acutely malnourished and it was estimated that 58,300 children could face death if they are not treated¹.

Reports indicated that people lost **80%** of their livestock and other animals in Somaliland and **20%** of them moved to urban centers².

Likewise Puntland authorities stipulated that some 220,000 people affected by the noxious drought and require urgent assistance³.

In addition to that, a rapid inter-agency assessment conducted by DRC⁴ in some regions of Puntland indicated that 40,000 households (over, 236,000) are affected by the drought, whilst, **80%** of traditional water sources for most residents and livestock have dried up.

Consequently, diverse vegetation complexes in northwestern regions of Somaliland, northeastern regions of Puntland, central and Southern regions of Somalia remained largely dry to drying owing to the drastic drought for the last couple of months and all the weather stations recorded nil.

Rainfall (mm) at Hargeisa, Burao, Berbera, Erigavo and Garowe Synoptic and Automatic Rain gauge Stations Network recorded nill for March, 2016⁵.

Date	Hargeisa	Burao	Berbera	Erigavo	Garowe
1-20-3-16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00 mm	0.00 mm	0.00 mm	0.00 mm	0.00 mm

3.0 DESERT LOCUST SITUATION (*Schistocerca gregaria*)

Survey operations were undertaken during early of March and diverse contacts were made with local residents in the key breeding habitats in the frontline regions and some members among the **Community Based Desert Locust Information Network (CBDLIN)** stipulated that the Desert Locust and other Migratory Pests situation continued to remain calm throughout the entire regions of the country.

It is worthwhile to mention, that both subsidiary breeding habitats in the plateau and escarpment and key breeding habitats in the coast where usually solitary adults of Desert Locusts normally could exist continued to remain calm and experienced extreme drought, rainless and dry conditions entirely.

Consequently, it triggered that both weather and ecological condition became unfavorable and not conducive for any DL breeding and development at all.

4.0 Other Migratory Pests (Red-billed Quella birds and African Army Worm)

Reports and any other relevant information of other Migratory Pests infestations were not received so far.

¹ A statement by UN'S humanitarian coordinator for Somalia, Peter de Clercq, OCHA.

² A press release issued by Mohamed Muse Awale, Director of National Environmental Research and Disaster preparedness and Management authority (NERAD) of Somaliland, source, IRIN.

³ A statement by Abdullahi Abdurahman Ahmed, Head of Puntland Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency.

⁴ Danish Refugee Council

⁵ All other stations network recorded nill as well

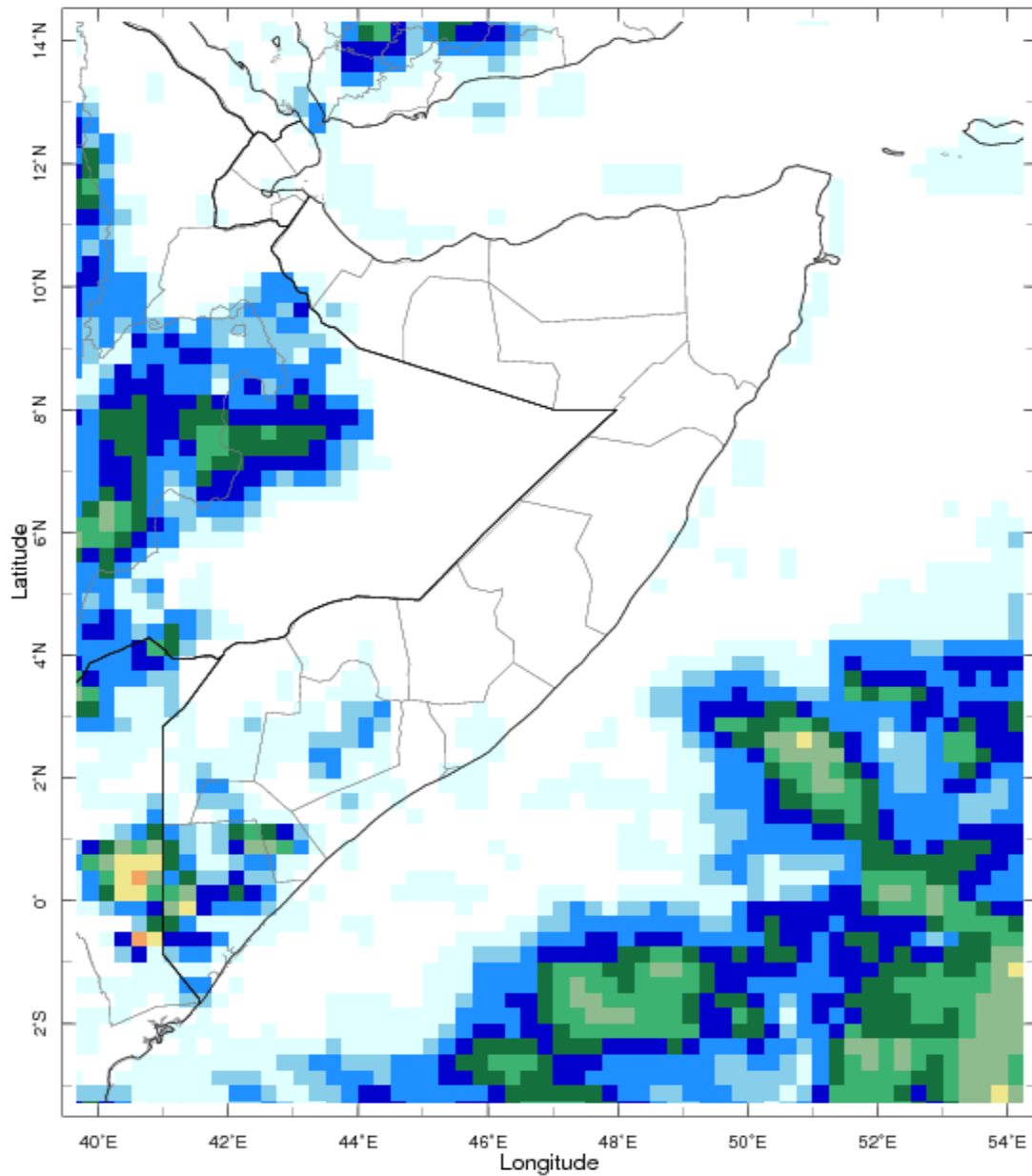
5.0 Forecast until mid-May, 2016

No significant developments are likely during the projected period, due to the fierce drought and dry conditions in both key breeding habitats in the coast and secondary breeding habitats in the plateau and escarpment that made impossible for any breeding and development of Desert Locust during the last couple of months.

Hence, it is forecasted that calm situation to sustain unchanged during the projected period, unless and other wise expected seasonal Gu' rains (**April-May**) commence abruptly and thereby moisten the soil deeper and improve the vegetation complexes further that could spearhead for small scale breeding thereafter.

FOR DIRECTOR,

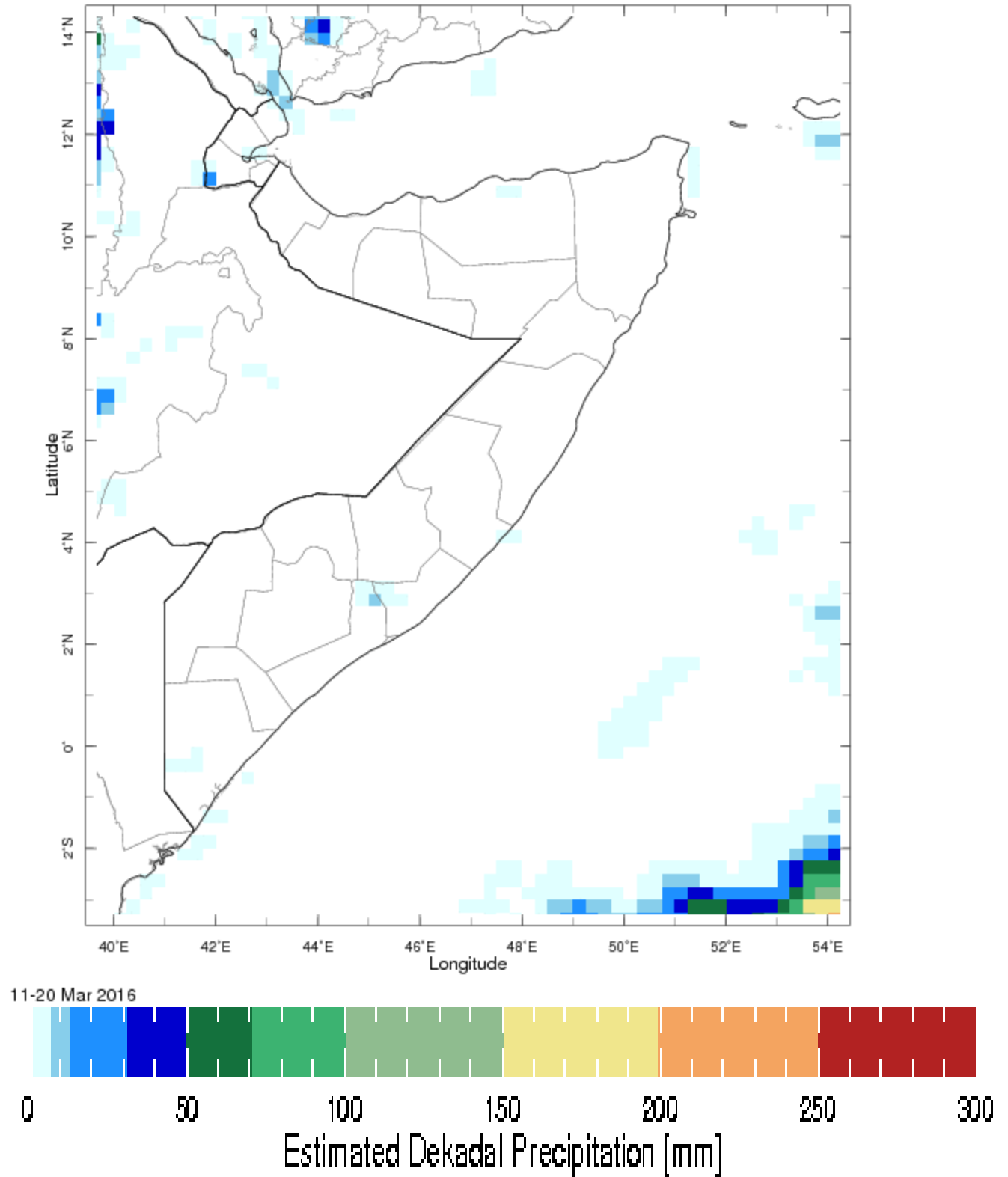
6.0 Rainfall estimates for the first dekad of March, (RFE 2016)



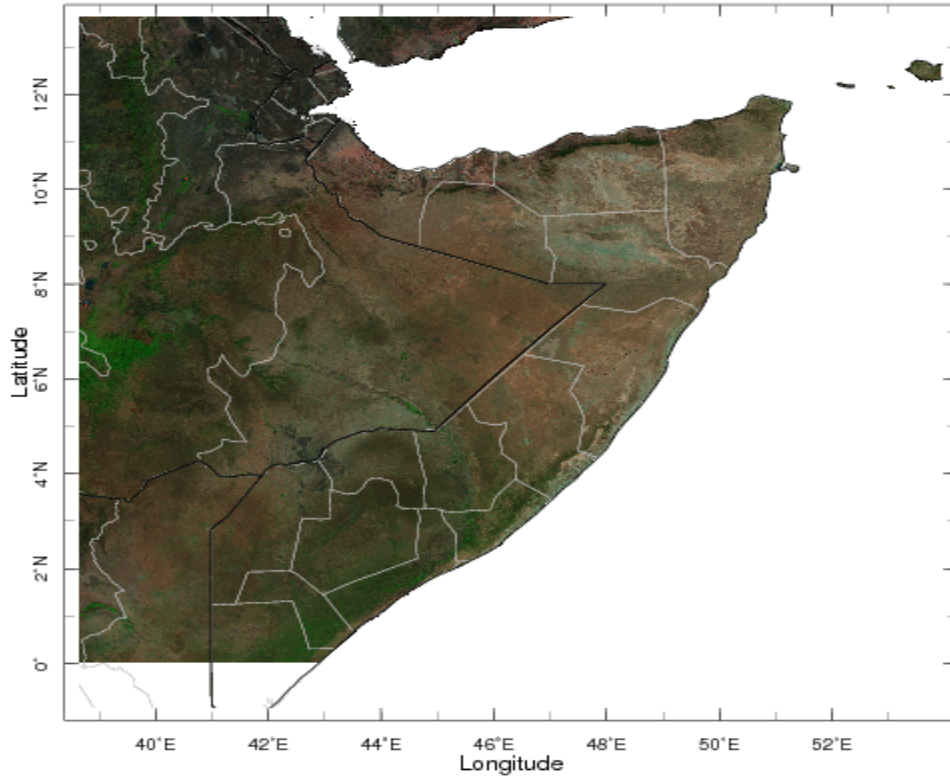
1-10 Mar 2016



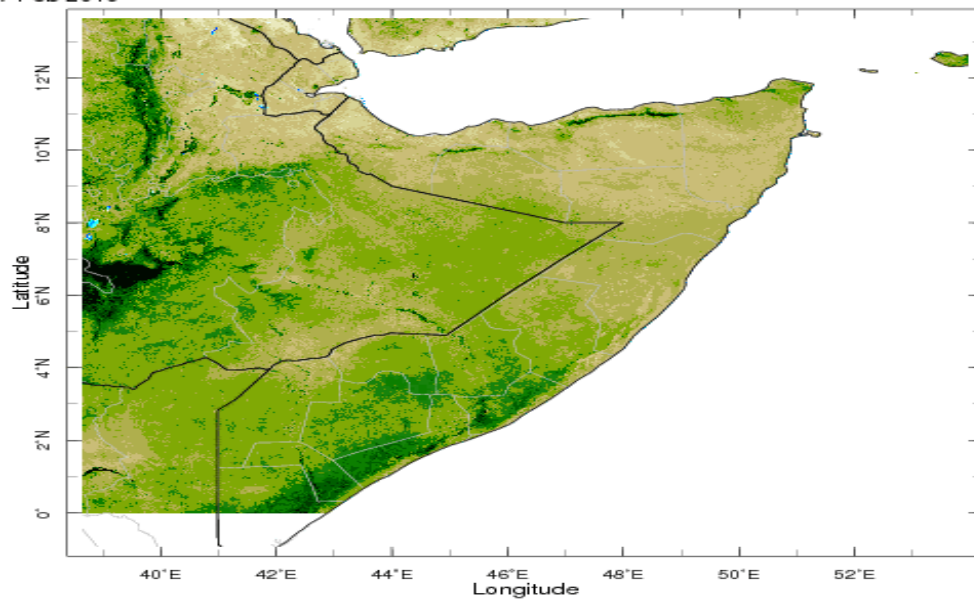
6.1 Rainfall estimates for the second dekad of March (RFE 2016)



6.2 Modis and NDVI images for Northern and Southern Somalia, for the first half of February, 2016⁶.



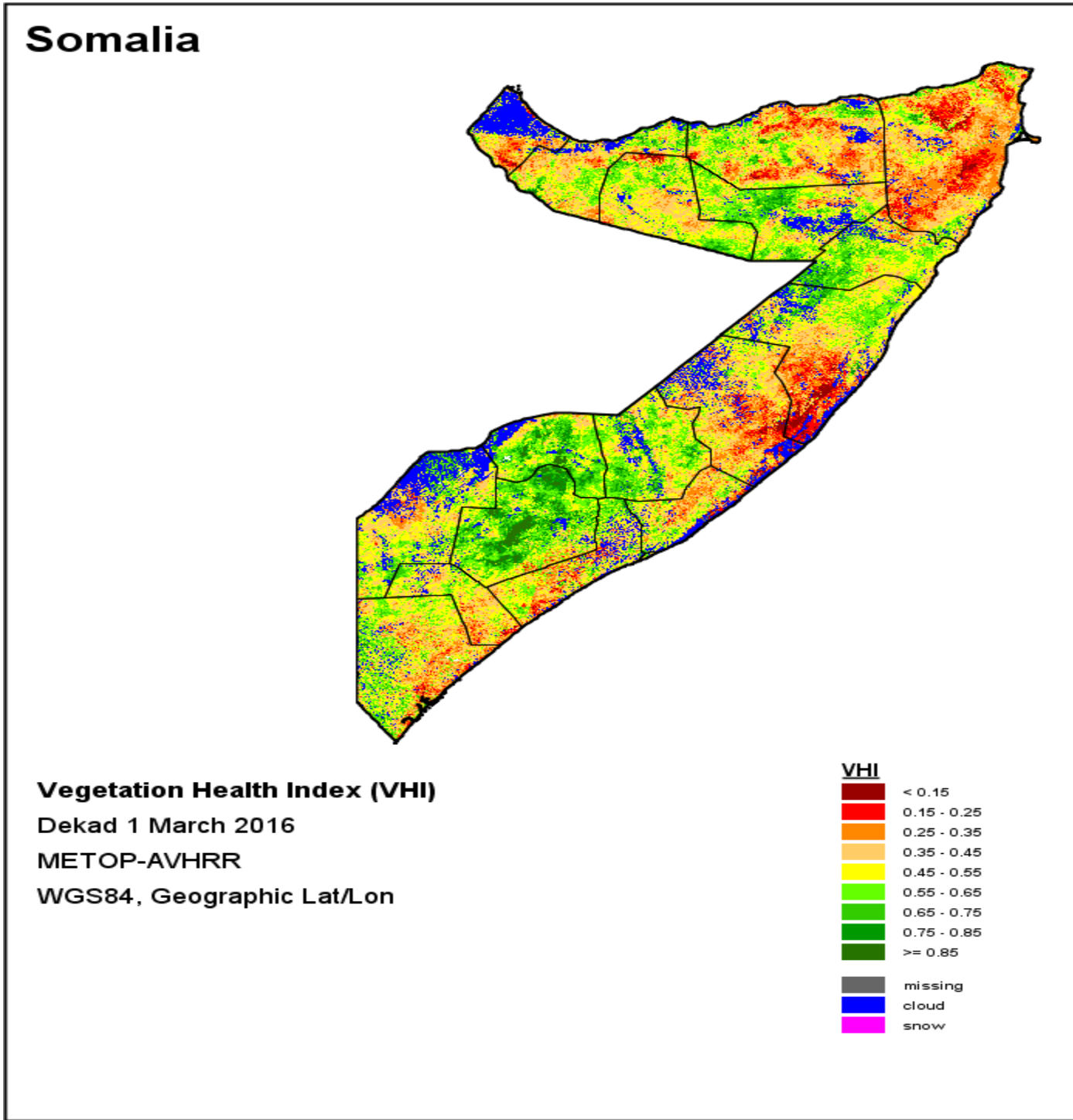
2-17 Feb 2016



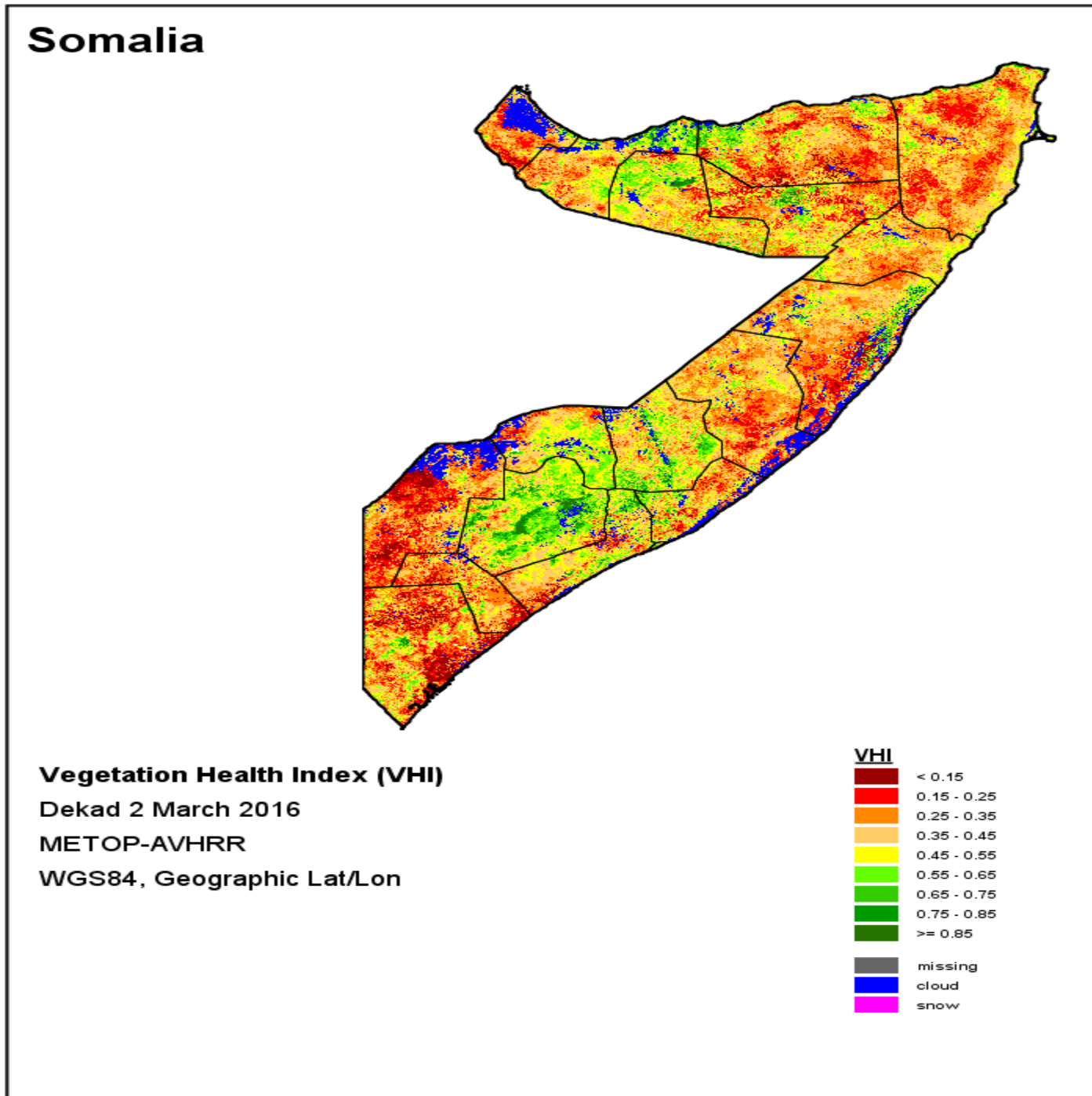
2-17 Feb 2016

⁶ Second half of February and early March modis images not received from the satellite yet and included previous modis image which was in the website accordingly.

6.3 Vegetation Health Index for the 1st dekad of March, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia.



6.4 Vegetation Health Index for the 2nd dekad of March, 2016 for Northern and Southern Somalia.



6.5 Some selected drought related photos for Northern Somalia (Northwestern coast of Somaliland).



Photos1: from top to bottom: women line up for treatment at save the children health clinic near Boroma, dead and weak body conditioned goats and women walks a donkey carrying jerry canes of water in coastal areas of Somaliland.



Photos2: from top to bottom: Death of cows, shoats and acutely malnourished and weak mother in Northwestern coast of Somaliland.