Highlights of the findings:

- 2015 March to May “Genna” rain season started late by two to three weeks in most parts of the two administrative zones.
- Coupled with below average last two consecutive rain season, March to May 2014 Gena and September to October 2014 Hagaya that ceased earlier than normal time caused all ponds to dried up, reduce traditional wells discharge capacity, most motorized water schemes to stop functioning, sever livestock feed shortage and massive livestock death between January to March 2015.
- Maize, wheat and Haricot bean are major staple crops grown in the area, however as result of late onset of March to May 2015 Geanna rain season, maize planting window was elapsed and reported seasonal maize production for 0% to 50% failure.
- However, after the onset of March to May 2015 Genna rain, pasture, browse and water availability is improving rapidly in all affected lowland woredas of Borena zone.
- Consequently, livestock body conditions, livestock products and reproductive performance rehabilitating slowly but not yet fully restored enough to support household food security.
- Milk production reduced by 17% for camel, 40% for cattle and 28% for shoat however, considering the current rapid improvements of livestock feed, productive and reproductive performance of livestock could be fully restored as of June 2015.
- Camel and Goat, browsers livestock population were less affected than Cattle and Sheep during the last drought period. Consequently household cattle herd size showed about 22% reduction compared to reference year.
- All water points like surface water harvesting structures like ponds are being filled, “Ella”, shallow and deep wells are recharging very well following onset of March to May 2015 Genna rain season.
- Cereal supply continued succeeding its seasonal trend, Maize market price in March 2015 increased by 15% compared to the same period last year. Whereas livestock market price reduced by 10% in March 2015 as compared to same period last year.
- Humanitarian food aid assistance is going on in the area, so far first round emergency and fourth round PSNP resources are transferred for eligible beneficiaries.

Genna 2015 Rainfall Progress:

- Both administrative zones characterized by bimodal type of rainfall. March to May “Genna” rain season and “Hagaya” rain season from September to October in every normal year. March to May Genna rain season contributes the higher share of precipitation (70%) and Hagaya about 30% of annual precipitation. However, in recent
years, the contribution of Hagaya has also been becoming crucial due to reduction in amount of March to May “Genna” rain. Small shower such as “Furmata” in January and “Fina” in June are important for sustaining pasture and water through the dry seasons and seed setting and filling in agro pastoral areas.

- March to May “Genna” 2015 rain season started almost late by two to three weeks in most parts of the two administrative zones.

- At commencement, March to May 2015 rain season was very erratic and ceased after experiencing few days shower rain. The performance of rain was erratic both in temporal and spatial distribution from 12 - 19 March and there was dry spell from 19 - 28 March. Rain with normal intensity reportedly received from 29 March onwards and the rain continued raining for consecutive days with good coverage and amount in most parts of Borena and Guji zones. The key informants consulted at Zonal, Woreda and community level confirmed that current season rain is good in terms of temporal, special, frequency and coverage. However, as compared to short and long term mean average, the cumulative amount of rainfall received so far is found to be below normal.

- Seasonably, only about twenty days remain for the Genna rain to cease in the visited zones. The indigenous, community traditional early warning system anticipated the rain season will further strengthen in the remaining periods. Seasonal trend analysis of the last three consecutive rainy seasons (Genna 2014, Hagaya 2014 and Genna 2015) performance was made with selected community representatives. They identified 2015 Genna as best compared to the two seasons based on its performance made so far, second is last year Genna and third is Hagaya 2014. In all visited lowland woredas of Borena zone, consulted communities confirmed that 2014 September to October Hagaya rain season was nearly a complete failure.

- As shown in figure 2 above, the rain season was late in its onset. It commenced in the last Dekad of March 2015. The amount rainfall received across periods between March to April was below normal as compared to long term average RFE2.

Genna Agricultural Activities and Crop Performances:

- Major staple food crops grown in the agropastoral areas of the zones are: Maize, Wheat, Haricot Bean and Teff. The planting window varies depending on the crop type. Maize planting period is from mid-March to mid-April. Wheat, Haricot bean and Teff planting period extends to end of April and the first fortnight of the May in some areas. The precipitation received before third Dekad of March 2015 was not enough for land preparation and planting of crops such as maize and sorghum. The prevailing high evapotranspiration reported
in March has hindered the dry land preparation due to low soil moisture and weak draft power availability as a result of poor livestock body conditions. As a result, maize planting window was elapsed before planting completed, however, some opportunistic famers are continued planting in some areas with the hope that the current rain will extend after mid-May.

- There was dry planting in few areas and maize planted during the dry season is currently at early vegetative growth stage. Wheat, Haricot bean and Teff planting has been on-going since the proper onset of rain and found at germination and vegetative stages. Planting still on-going and community members contacted informed the mission members that except for maize, production will be normal if the rain extended to mid-May. Under likely scenario maize could considered as 0% to 50% complete failure and significant yield reduction anticipated if the rain not extended beyond mid-May.

Water, Pasture and Livestock Condition:

- Extended dry season “Bona – Hagaya” due to early cessation of 2014 “Hagaya” rain and late onset of March to May 2015 Genna rain has resulted in sever livestock feed shortage in most parts of Borena Zone especially in lowland pastoral woredas. However, after the onset of March to May 2015 Genna rain, posture, browse and water availability is improving rapidly. As a result pasture, browse regeneration has shown significant improvement and thus, Camel and Goats are more favoured and their body condition found in better position than grazers, cattle and sheep. According to key informants consulted during field visit, situation is improving but still the rejuvenated pasture amount is below average. However, if the current rain extends till mid May 2015, which is normal cessation time, availability of livestock feed will be normal and able to fill “Bona – Genna” livestock feed demand and can sustain livestock till next wet season onset for “Hagaya” 2015.

- Livestock body condition deteriorated during extended dry season “Bona - Hagaya” is not yet fully recovered from the drought season stress. Consequently, livestock, products and reproductive performance are not yet fully restored enough to support household food security. Participants of community focus group discussion revealed that livestock product (milk production) reduced by 17% for camel, 40% for cattle and 28% for shoat. However, considering the current rapid improvements of livestock feed, productive and reproductive performance of livestock could be restored as of June 2015.

- Despite below average seasonal performance, household camel herd size increased by about 5% from reference year according to the findings of the analysis from the community discussions. This is mainly attributed to the feeding habits of camel (browsing) and low practice of selling camel by the owner. But camel is only owned by better of households in the community and doesn’t represent the whole community. Similarly, goats depend for its feed on browse and have equally favoured as camel and have not been affected by drought situation like grazers. But due to high practice of selling of shoats, household shoat herd size
declined by about 6% from the reference year as per the discussion made with the community representatives and analysis made. Likewise, household cattle herd size showed about 22% reduction compared to reference year as result of consecutive below average rain season that caused pasture regeneration to remain under subsistence. Accordingly, cattle birth rate was low and high sales and deaths were reported during “Bona - Hagaya”.

- There is no livestock disease at epidemic level but some endemic livestock diseases such as unknown camel death, internal and external parasites and CPPP in shoats are observed in the season.

- Following onset of March to May 2015 Genna rain all water points are replenishing very well. Surface water harvesting structures like ponds are being filled, “Ella”, shallow and deep wells are recharging. Water access for both livestock and human consumption are now improved. Emergency water ration that has been on-going for the two month terminated. However, most traditional ponds have silting problem.

- Emergency situation, especially scarcity of water and labor demand for livestock migration negatively affected normal teaching and learning processes in most schools found in lowland woredas of Borena zone. For example, some schools were completely closed between Januarys to March 2015 in Miyo woreda as a result of critical water shortage but reopened after water tracking interventions. There was also high school dropout report during aforementioned period and out of 106954 students registered in September 2014, 7044 were reported for drop out during January to Mach.

- All water points are expected to fully replenish to end of the rainy season, mid May 2015. But still water quality remains an issue for human consumption. Given the current water points improvement, the amount of water obtained will take them through next dry season.

**Market and Price Situation:**

- Cereal supply continued declining following its seasonal trend. Cereal market prices normally increase during this time of the year. However the crisis situation happened as result of extended dry season and delay of March to May Genna rain season has imposed high cereal demand due to low livestock product availability. For example, milk market price was increased by birr 10/lit in March 2015 as compared to the same period last year. Likewise, Maize market price in March 2015 increased by 15% compared to the same period last year. Whereas livestock market price reduced by 10% in March 2015 as compared to same period last year

**Human Health and Nutrition Condition:**

- The overall human health situation is found normal and there is no epidemic disease outbreak except slight increase on children malnutrition due to low milk access and food by the household. Third round CHD screening result shows that out of 175, 647 under five
children screened, about 8044 and 450 were identified for MAM and SAM cases, respectively. Moreover, 38 children were reported to have bilateral Odema. A total of 2633.25 quintals of blended food and 421.38 quintals of oil were requested for ten woredas of Borena zone. However the requested supplementary food is not yet delivered to the reporting date.

**Ongoing Humanitarian Responses Activities:**

- Following the approval of HRD, survival deficit response allocation requested for 106,103 beneficiaries and first round food assistance received. Moreover 124, 185 PSNP targeted beneficiaries continued getting assistance and fourth round PSNP resources distributed. On the other hand, following the rapid assessment made by zonal disaster prevention and preparedness task force an additional of 10227 beneficiaries identified for survival food consumption deficit but food not yet delivered for the additional beneficiaries.

- For livelihood protection response, the regional government has allocated budget for procurement of hay and water tracking after emergency situation declared in January 2015. Around 22,080 bales of hay supplied and total of 19 trucks were deployed for emergency water rationing.

**Food Security Situation:**

- Following the poor performance of the last consecutive rains (Genna and Hagaya 2014), livestock body condition, production and productivity have significantly reduced. Extended Bona-Hagaya dry season and late onset of March to May 2015 Genna rain season have further depleted available pasture and water. Following these situation, massive livestock death were reported before the onset of current rain season in March 2015. However, the situations are now changing rapidly in terms of pasture, browse and water availability. Livestock body conditions and availability of livestock products are somehow improving. But, the delay on the onset of the Genna rains has affected the agricultural performances and planting window for important crops like maize is over and farmers planted other crops late. This will lead to a below normal seasonal production that will affect household income and food access. Therefore, poor and very poor households found in midland and highland areas of Borena zone will remain under food security stress with hash (IPC Phase 2) till September 2015.

- On the other hand, though the Mach to May 2015 Genna rain season has made some improvements on the availability pasture, browse and water but it couldn’t induce an immediate livestock body conditions, livestock product and productivities improvements but believed it requires some time to fully recover from stress of previous months drought impacts. Household food and income sources from livestock sector remain subsistence. Therefore poor and very poor household found in southern part of Borena will remain under Crisis (IPC Phase 3) till September 2015 due to prevailing low livestock products, low livestock market price and high grain price, low food and income sources from seasonal agricultural labour.