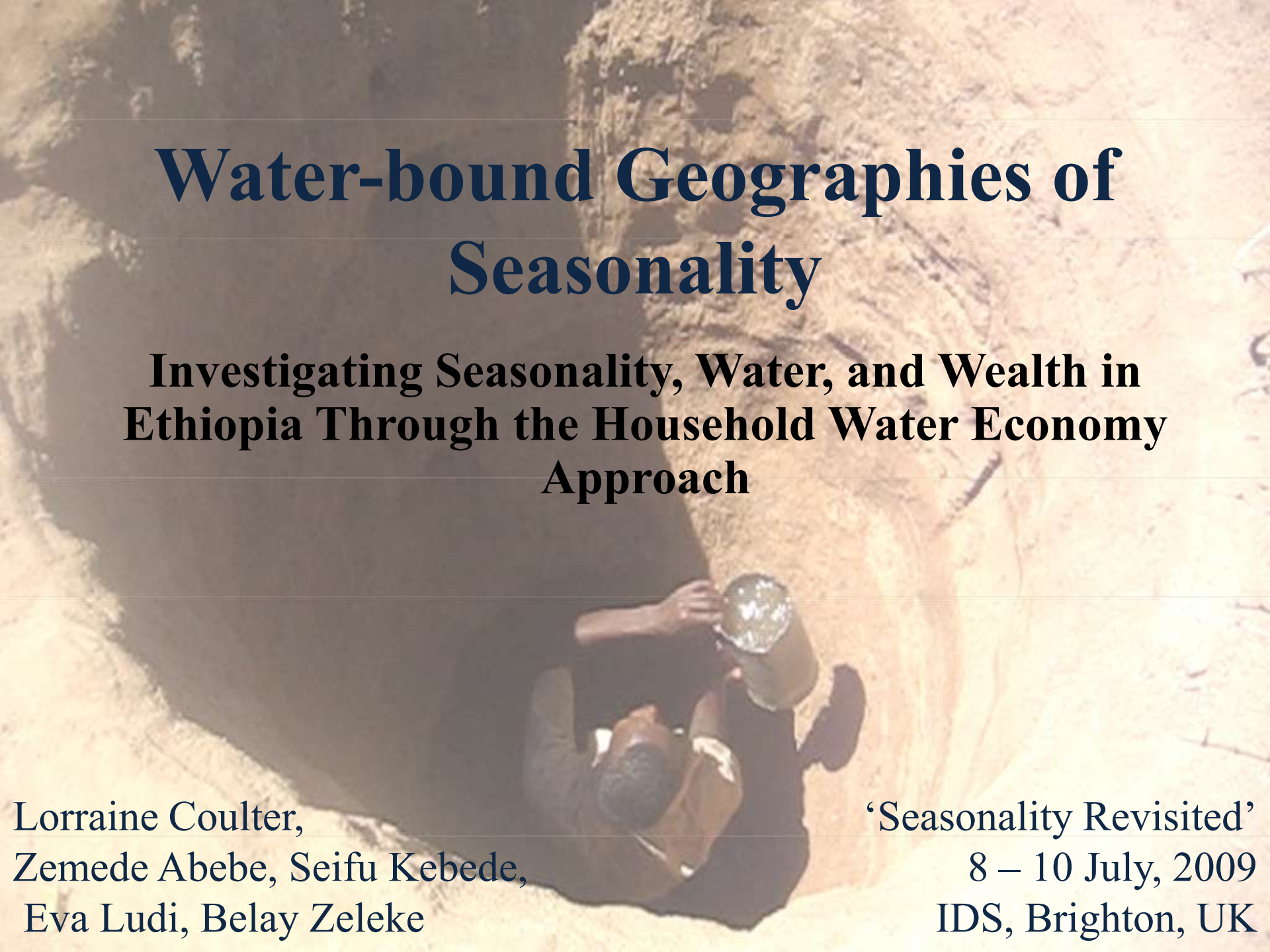


Water-bound Geographies of Seasonality

Investigating Seasonality, Water, and Wealth in Ethiopia Through the Household Water Economy Approach

Lorraine Coulter,
Zemede Abebe, Seifu Kebede,
Eva Ludi, Belay Zeleke

'Seasonality Revisited'
8 – 10 July, 2009
IDS, Brighton, UK

Household Water Economy Approach

- Developed to bring analytical rigour to understanding the inter-linkages between water security & food security
- Designed to build on existing methodologies & to link to and inform the early warning and disaster risk management systems in place in Ethiopia, which are based partly on HEA
- Brings a *prescriptive* analysis to water assessments and links household economy with access to water

Household Water Economy Approach

➢ HWEA Components

- **Water Baselines –** which **a) quantify seasonal access** to water by different wealth groups for different uses; and **b) characterise groundwater availability** and potential through hydrogeological investigations

- **Hazards Analysis –** which **quantifies shocks/hazards** and translates them into quantified consequences at household level

- **Outcome Analysis –** which **project impact** of hazards in relation to survival and livelihoods protection thresholds

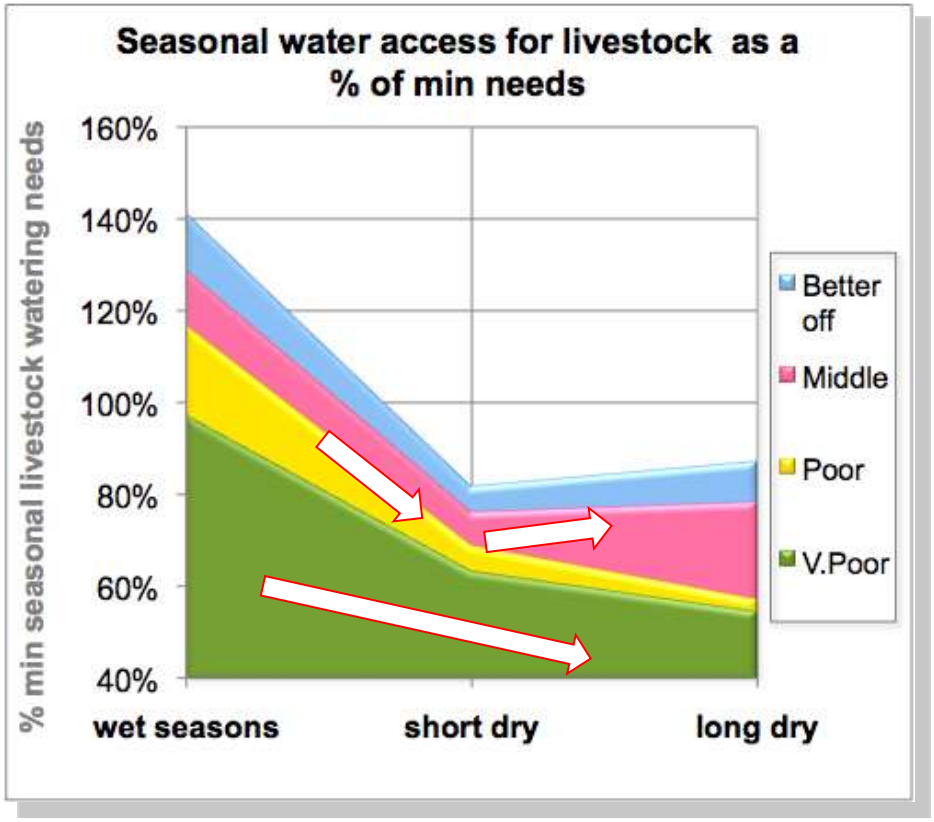
Household Water Economy Approach

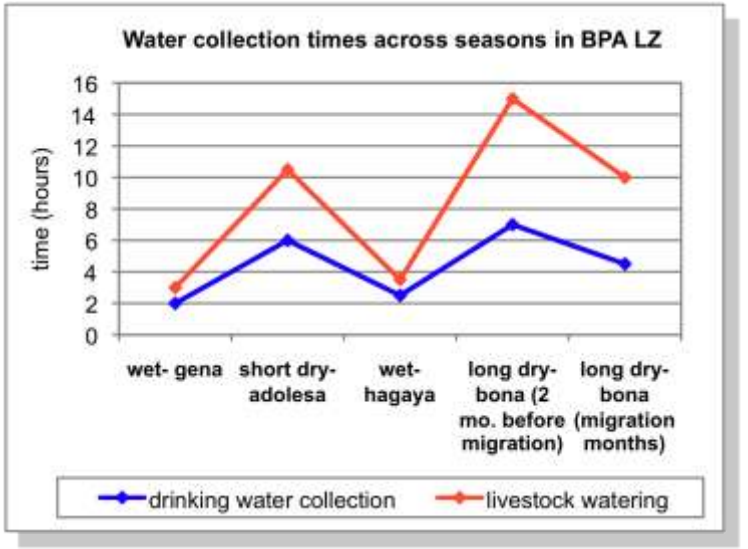
➢ Assessments

- ➢ **HWEA pilot – Bale, Oromiya, Ethiopia –** Bale Pastoral (BPA) Livelihood Zone, Livelihoods Integration Unit
- ➢ **Rapid emergency water & livelihoods needs assessment** in north-eastern SNNPR, Ethiopia during the *Belg* 2008 emergency, CHF International
- ➢ **Action-research HWEA study** to roll out HWEA baselines and assess likely impacts of climate-change related shocks on household water and livelihoods security and identify opportunities to mitigate risk and build resilience, RiPPLE Ethiopia

Quantifying Seasonal Access to Water in Bale Pastoral LZ

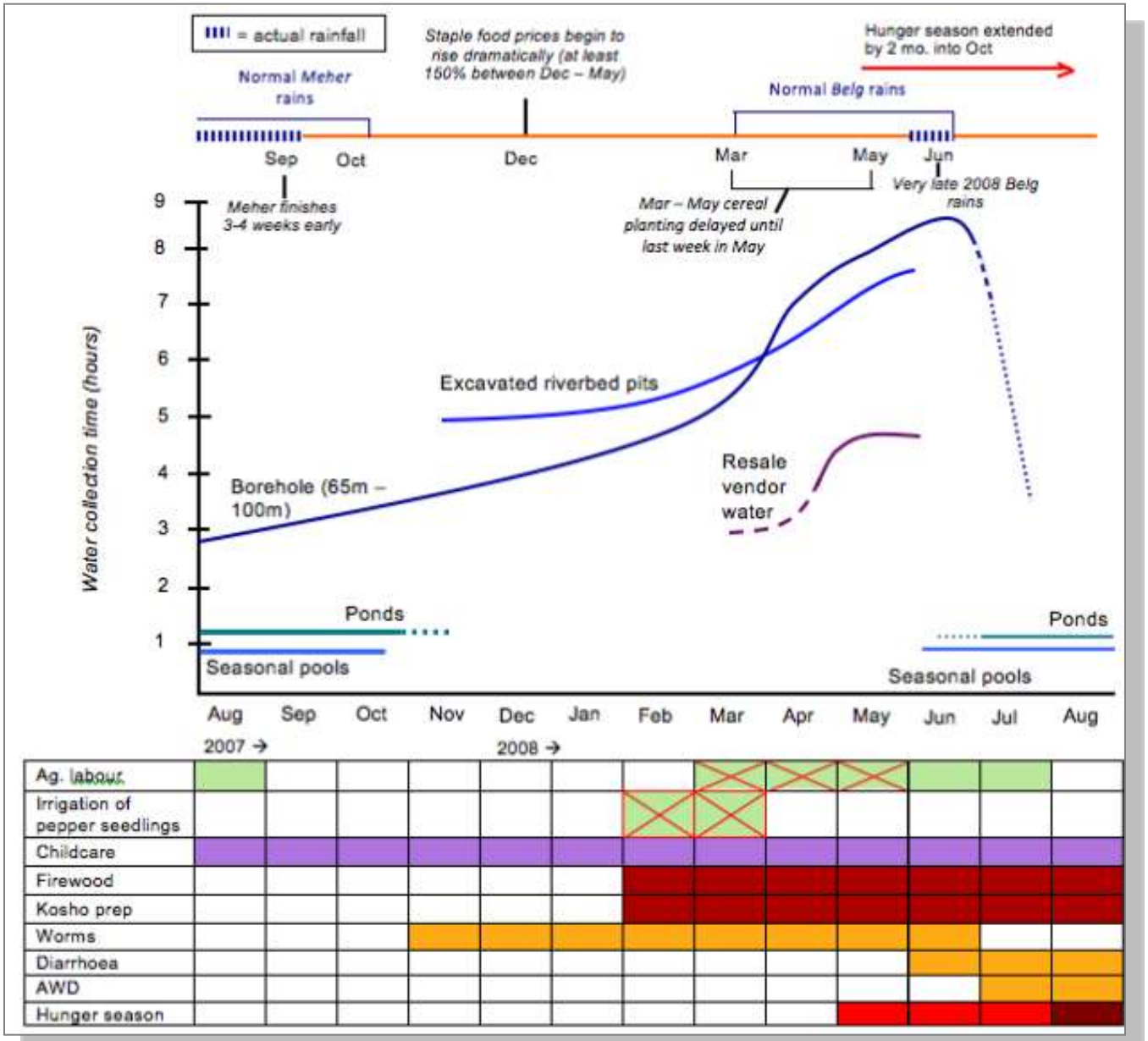
- Poorer households can't secure enough water in the *bona* season to meet minimum livestock water needs





- Wealth-based disparities in access have profound implications on asset protection and wealth generation

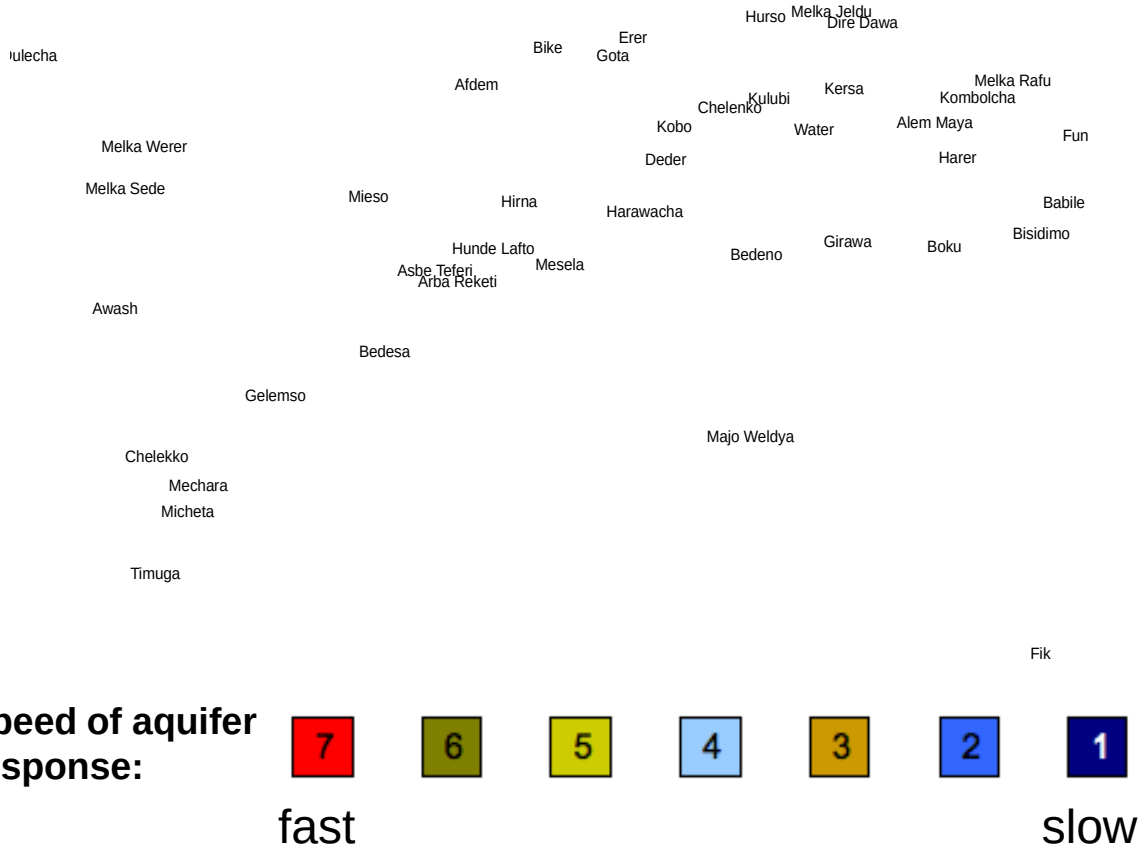
Seasonal Conflicts Over Labour Allocation in Alaba, SNNPR



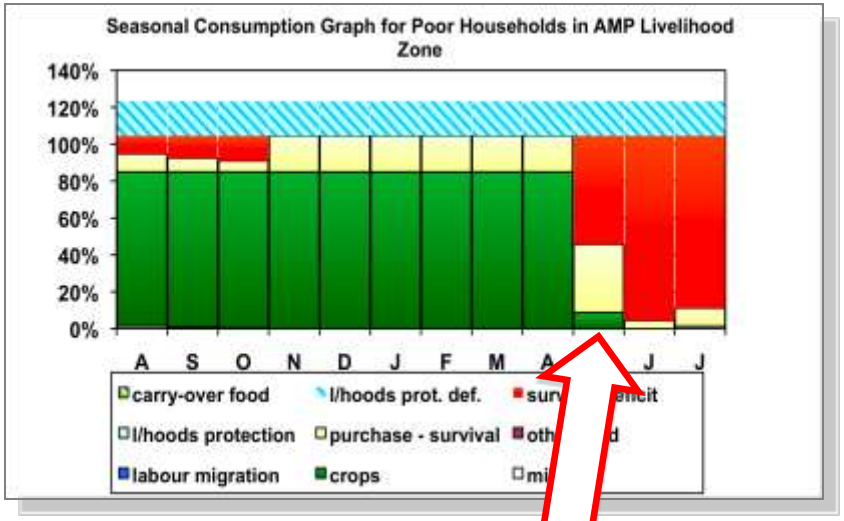
Hydrogeological Investigations

The Geography of Seasonality: Hydrogeological Investigations in Oromiya & Somali Regions

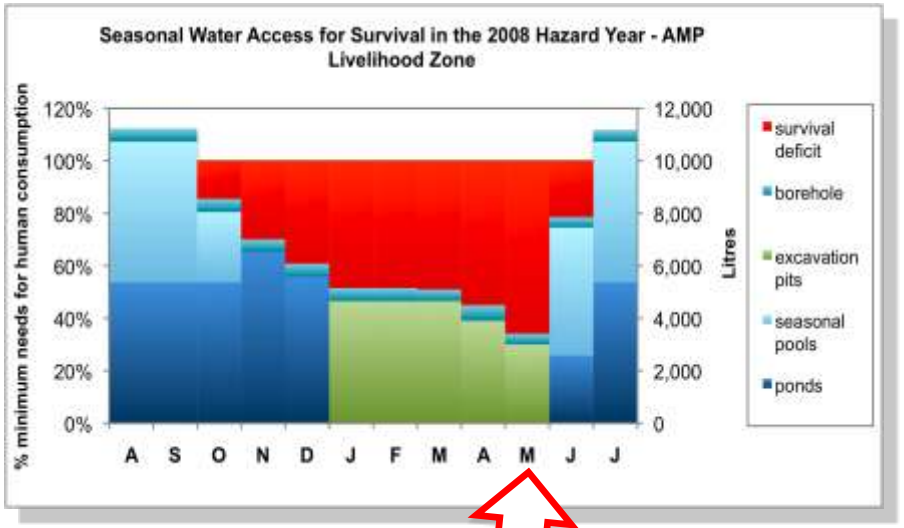
- Groundwater is often the most important water source in drought
- Looking at hydrogeology and rainfall levels allows us to assess the vulnerability of aquifers to changes in climate & rainfall



Scenario Analysis in Alaba-Mareko, SNNPR

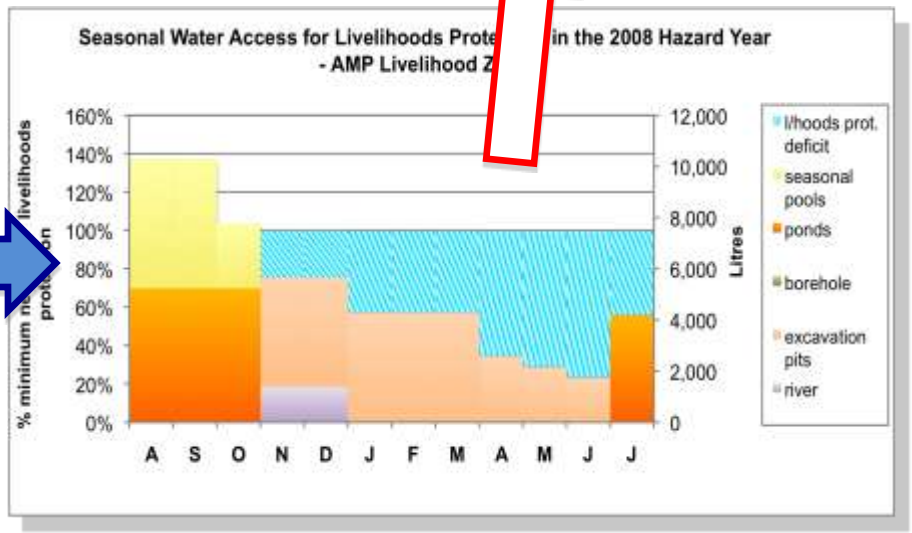


- Households faced survival food deficits starting in May in Alaba-Mareko (SNNPR) in 2008.



- Water survival deficits also peaked during this period.

- Water for livelihoods deficits resulted in 50-65% loss of production of peppers by the poor, which makes up 30% of people's entire income



What to do?

- HWEA helps to better understand the inter-linkages between food security and water security
  - when do different people face water deficits
  - for which uses
  - what are the impacts
  - how do they cope
- Better understanding of how people piece together their livelihoods in a 'normal' year and how they deal with seasonality contributes to better understanding how they will be affected by shocks or hazards in a bad year
- HWEA can potentially be used to build scenarios of likely impacts of climate change and water-based climate change adaptation interventions

Outlook