



FAO IN SOMALIA

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FAO seeks \$443 million for Somalia recovery

Organization joins WFP and UNICEF in joint resilience strategy

05 December 2012, Nairobi– The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is appealing for US\$443 million for the next three years to continue helping the population move forward following the famine in Somalia, which officially ended earlier this year. In 2011, a combination of years of conflict, drought and high food prices drove over 4 million people, half of Somalia's population into acute food insecurity leaving tens of thousands dead, especially children under five.

Although 2.12 million Somalis are still in crisis, the country is on the path to recovery. Working with national and international partners, FAO's aid strategy is to help farmers and herders rebuild long-term resilience.

"Food security is a long-term process and that is why we are emphasizing long term planning under the Consolidated Appeal Process 2013-15," said Luca Alinovi, FAO representative for Somalia. FAO is seeking \$375 million and a separate \$68 million for the next three years, he said.

"This move aims at sustaining the momentum in order not only to avoid a repeat of last year's famine but also adequately to prepare communities in the most drought-prone zones to be able to face future crises with little help," he added.

Strengthening communities

Alinovi said FAO would pay special attention to helping agricultural and pastoral communities cope with recurrent drought, which led to the 2011 crisis. The aid delivered by FAO during the recent famine to more than a million people was in the form of cash-based interventions that helped vulnerable communities to immediately buy

food, which, together with agricultural inputs and livestock health services, allowed people to remain in their homes. Fertilizers and improved seeds were distributed in a move that enabled farmers in the regions of Bay and Shabelle to more than double their production of maize and sorghum last year. Adequate and timely funding also permitted FAO to roll out treatment and mass vaccination campaigns against diseases endemic to Somalia that threaten the herds. At least 14 million livestock were vaccinated against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). PPR is an acute and highly contagious viral disease of sheep and goats, characterized by fever, erosive stomatitis, enteritis, pneumonia, and death.

FAO, UNICEF and WFP have adopted a Joint Resilience Strategy to prioritize household/community resilience within their programmes. The Strategy calls for a paradigm shift to promote concerted actions to help affected Somali society cope with crises on the basis of community-based initiatives. "We are working together to place a greater emphasis on the reduction and management of shocks and enhanced investments in building productive, human, social, natural and financial resources within households and communities, recognizing the different roles, capacities and needs of women and men, girls and boys," said Sikander Khan, the Representative for UNICEF Somalia. The focus on resilience bridges humanitarian and development programming to better address overlapping risks and stresses.

Helping the displaced return home

Crises at household level often deteriorate fast when families lose their only assets. FAO's Cash in return for work, as well as the

provision of improved seeds for the next harvest, is aimed at helping to reduce the number of refugees and cut a growing dependency on aid. Crises at household level often deteriorate fast when families lose their only assets and are at risk of starvation.

"FAO is working together with the UN refugee agency to restore the agriculture-based livelihoods of people affected by the vicious cycle of the crisis by designing a resettlement package that helps them to return to their homes while ensuring they can cope with future shocks," said Alinovi.

In its initial stages, the programme is targeting 42 000 people currently displaced around Somalia. They will be provided with agricultural kits (e.g. rice, maize and vegetable seeds, fertilizers and farming tools) and taught how to use them. Additional support will be channeled through unconditional cash transfers for the poorest families, as well as cash-for-work opportunities. FAO will also help to strengthen animal husbandry, agroprocessing and marketing, focusing on youth and households headed by women.

Emphasis will also be placed on better coordination of nutrition and food security interventions and strengthening the technical capacity of partners in the sector. Early warning and analysis tools – such as the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification and Dynamic Atlas surveys – will be used to strengthen analysis of needs, including comprehensive information focusing on gender.

FAO, Somali President commit to ending food crisis

Mogadishu, Somalia October 16 2012 – Somalia's newly elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has said his government will work with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to prioritize reviving Somalia's agricultural glory waned by 20 years of war. Participating in events to mark this year's World Food Day celebrations in the Somali capital Mogadishu, Sheikh Mohamud, who became Somalia's first democratically elected president in 20 years, said agriculture forms a key tenet of his development strategy.

“Somalia's agricultural performance is a crucial part of my government's recovery plan, which seeks to help hardworking Somali communities to be able to increase local food production to end poverty for ever,” President Sheikh Mohamud adding: “Somali people are able to produce their own food and we have to make sure that that happens soonest,” said President Sheikh Mohamud while meeting Luca Alinovi, FAO's representative to Somalia on Tuesday.

In 2011, a famine affected over 4 million people, or more than half of the population of Somalia, leading to tens of thousands of deaths. The cumulative impact of protracted and complex emergency, which has led to increased vulnerability to food insecurity. In the midst of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, hunger and malnutrition are some of the major causes of suffering for significant sections of the population. Latest estimates show 2.12 million people face acute food security crisis especially in the south.

Road map to agricultural recovery

Once one of Africa's leading exporters of banana and livestock, the Horn of Africa nation has been torn by years civil strife, forcing some of most agriculturally productive communities into displacement and exile. Today, banana exports have fizzled out, while livestock exports resumed in 2009 following a 9-year bad by Saudi Arabia, a key importer of Somali animals.

“These are very important inroads towards making Somalis more resilient and that is where FAO and its partners are concentrating their efforts by boosting farmers' and herders' ability to cope with recurrent droughts,” said Alinovi.

The aid delivered by FAO to more than a million people was largely in the form of cash-based interventions that helped vulnerable communities to immediately buy food which, together with



Luca Alinovi, FAO's Officer in Charge for Somalia meets Somalia's newly elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud flanked by Hussein Mohamud Sheikh Hussein, acting Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Range and Forestry. FAO/Frank Nyakairu.

agriculture inputs and livestock health and production services, allowed people to remain in their places of origin. Fertilizers and improved seeds were distributed while 22 million livestock were vaccinated or treated. The agricultural assistance enabled farmers in the regions of Bay and Shabelle to double production of maize and sorghum last year, while livestock interventions have been seen to break a vicious cycle of epidemic outbreaks. A year after 2011's famine, Somalia is now on the path to recovery thanks to the timely interventions targeting herders and farmers in regions plagued by recurrent droughts. FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UNICEF have developed joint strategy aimed at enhancing synergies to increase resilience to droughts and other crises.

Targeting Agricultural Cooperatives

Agricultural cooperatives are the focus of World Food Day 2012 with a theme “Agricultural cooperatives – key to feeding the world.” In the Somali capital Mogadishu, FAO brought together several cooperatives from the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors to strengthen ways of working together.

“Agricultural cooperatives, once better organized and strengthened, have shown to increase performance of smallholder farmers and that is a key objective in Somalia,” said Alinovi.

FAO also launched a fish-eating campaign targeting the majority of the Somali population culturally biased against fish. With 20 years of war and no functional government, Somalia's farmers and herders bore the worst brunt of conflict and recurrent droughts.



Somalia Famine: How FAO Responded

The Long Road to Resilience

On July 20 2011, the United Nations announced a state of famine in southern Somalia. The six-month crisis caused thousands of deaths and required a massive humanitarian aid programme before it was declared officially over on 3 February 2012. Today Somalia is on the path to recovery but the situation remains critical and continued aid is vital in order to preserve food security. Luca Alinovi, who heads FAO's operations in Somalia, warns:

"By designing and executing a build-back-better process, we have seen communities get back on their feet in months. But the danger is that they could slide back into crisis, if we disengage now."

Serious danger

That danger appears all the more serious as the latest forecast from FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit in Somalia warns that reduced rains this year will lead to a below-average to poor harvest in many parts of the south, including the major sorghum-producing region of Bay. The area normally accounts for almost two-thirds of the total sorghum production of the country.

This could lead to a deterioration of the food security situation, currently classified as very critical in most parts of southern Somalia, despite the considerable humanitarian efforts deployed by FAO and other national and international actors. Some 3.4 million Somalis continue to receive support in the form of cash or food aid.



Meagre crop production is also likely in the central agropastoral zone following erratic and below normal rains combined with pest infestation with obvious implications on the food access of households.

Building resilience

FAO's aid strategy in southern Somalia has been to help farmers and herders build long-term resilience to drought and other emergencies in a region plagued by recurrent droughts.

The aid delivered by FAO to more than a million people was in the form of cash-based interventions that helped vulnerable communities to immediately buy food which, together with agriculture inputs and livestock health services,

allowed people to remain in their places of origin.

Fertilizers and improved seeds were distributed while 14 million livestock were vaccinated. The assistance enabled farmers in the regions of Bay and Shabelle to double their production of maize and sorghum last year.

"During the drought, we survived on one meal a day and could not even afford milk", said Fatuma Aden Abdirahman, a mother of eight who worked in a FAO cash-for-work programme in Gedo, southern Somalia "But now, I earn at least \$18 a week and can afford all the three meals for my children and will soon replace the goats I lost in the drought," she added.

Aside from putting money in people's pockets, cash-based schemes also benefit communities in the long-term with better infrastructure. For example, in all 1 626 km of canals were rehabilitated, serving 82 231 farmers who are now able to benefit from irrigation and are no longer dependent on rain fed agriculture.

"There is also increasing need to build social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable if and when drought hits again in the future," Alinovi added. "Continued humanitarian support is of utmost importance".



RESILIENCE
BUILDING
BLOCKS

The FAO-UNICEF-WFP Joint Resilience Strategy for Somalia

In 2012, FAO UNICEF and WFP adopted a Joint Resilience Strategy to prioritize household/community resilience within their programmes. The Strategy calls for a paradigm shift to promote 'the concerted actions to help affected Somali society cope with crises on the basis of community-based initiatives'. It is focussed on building capacities and contingencies, with households and communities, to enable them to withstand shocks and broaden abilities to adapt to changing conditions. The focus on resilience bridges humanitarian and development programming to better address overlapping risks and stresses. It requires large-scale and comprehensive approaches, partnerships across stakeholders and multi-sectoral collaboration.

The three building blocks of the Strategy: the Joint Strategy on community and household resilience is articulated around three building blocks, which are integrated and complementary and to which several agencies contribute:

- I. **Strengthen productive sectors:** for vulnerable working households, this includes deepening and improving access to physical asset bases, generating increased output with fewer inputs through enhanced technologies, improving access to decent employment, expanding access and improving function of market systems and market information;
- II. **Basic services to protect human capital:** for at risk individuals and households, this focuses on systems and services that enhance people's good health, adequate nutrition and education, safety and adequate skills. These outcomes are necessary to withstand shocks and adapt in times of crises. This includes gender sensitive basic services as well as support services, such as extension, to the productive sectors.

- III. **Promote safety nets for a minimum of social protection:** for destitute/chronically at risk households who cannot meet basic household needs as a result of repeated exposure to shocks and seasonal difficulties. Moving beyond the discontinuous cycles of short-term assistance, this building block provides a predictable level of assistance to those most vulnerable households. This enables households to be secure in the knowledge that their basic needs are achievable and that, in the event of a shock, their survival is assured.

The three building blocks of resiliency are integrated and complementary. All three blocks (1, 2 and 3) are important for enhancing and protecting the resources on which people draw on to anticipate, avert, adjust and recover from shocks.

The strategic approach: the partnership between FAO, UNICEF and WFP originated because the three organizations recognized that all three building blocks of the strategy – enhanced productive sectors, enhanced basic services, and minimal social protection – must be in place in order to strengthen and enhance community and household resilience. Between them, the three agencies have the necessary leverage to realize the strategy, i.e. address resilience effectively through multisectoral approaches

