



EMERGENCY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA: FOLLOW-UP AND RESPONSE ACTIONS



INTERNATIONAL MEETING • ROME 18 AUGUST 2011

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FAO, Rome, 18 August 2011

Chair's Summary and Recommendations

1. Today's meeting took stock of the evolving situation, reviewed actions taken to date and identified measures required to address urgent needs, including funding gaps, as well as longer term follow-up investments and actions required to build resilience and tackle the root causes of crisis vulnerability in the Horn of Africa (HoA). It builds on the G20 action plan on food price volatility and agriculture and on the Emergency Ministerial-Level Meeting on the crisis situation in the HoA of 25 July, called by FAO at the request of the French Presidency of the G20, and contributes to the preparation for response actions and investment decisions being discussed in the coming weeks.
2. Meeting participants are concerned that expanded areas of Somalia have been declared as exceeding the internationally-accepted thresholds for famine and large populations in several countries face unacceptable risks to their food security and nutritional status, dignity, health and well-being and drew attention to the constraints in expanding urgently needed humanitarian assistance within Southern Somalia.
3. The conclusions of the meeting are grounded in (i) the agency reports submitted to the meeting; (ii) the updated IASC Plan of Action (PoA) for the Horn of Africa; (iii) FAO's reports on *Crisis in the Horn of Africa: short-term funding requirements for immediate response* and *Overcoming the Crisis in the Horn of Africa*; (iv) the United Nations (UN) report on Humanitarian Requirements for the Horn of Africa Drought; (v) the 2000 inter-agency report on The elimination of food insecurity in the Horn of Africa: A strategy for concerted government and UN agency action; and, (vi) the continental, regional and country strategies, plans and processes developed within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
4. Participants at the meeting confirmed their commitment to a twin-track approach, detailed in the updated UN **Comprehensive Framework for Action**, to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable populations while building longer-term resilience. In particular, participants called on member states and their development partners to:
 - in the short term ensure that emergency food security needs are fully met; nutrition support is scaled up; the animals owned by vulnerable, small-scale herders are protected; seeds, fertilizers and farm implements needed to produce crops and vegetables are secured for the upcoming October 2011 and spring 2012 planting season, and vulnerable households are shielded from rising food prices through expanded conditional and unconditional cash and food transfers as appropriate;

- in the medium and longer term, invest in the technical tools, financial mechanisms and policies to increase production and livelihoods in Arid and Semi Arid Lands; aggressively protect and restore degraded land and water; achieve sustained and equitable agricultural growth and rural development; ensure adequate availability of and access to nutritious food; and, enhance people's ability to withstand weather and climatic cycles.
5. Participants supported humanitarian and development interventions to support saving lives and livelihoods in the HoA, and emphasized the need for stronger linkages between humanitarian and development initiatives.
 6. Participants stressed that the livelihoods of the peoples of the Horn of Africa provide the foundation for their survival, protection, recovery and human development. Therefore, there is an immediate need to increase support to livelihoods through humanitarian interventions, which must be sustained until conditions are stable, including:
 - **Ensure availability and access to food, which is needed to support people's livelihoods** including: rapidly identify and address acute malnutrition; protect the most vulnerable; maintain freedom of movement of peoples and livestock; and facilitate access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene and basic health care.
 - Support the G20 request to the WFP and other international organizations for a proposal of a targeted emergency humanitarian food reserves system to complement existing regional and national food reserves.
 - Provide resources for **cash for work, non-conditional cash transfers and vouchers-for-work** when these are the most appropriate interventions to vulnerable households to prevent distress migration and household dissolution; prevent the distress sale of assets and the exhaustion of limited savings; preclude the need for long-term, cross-border labour migration; stimulate expanded supply of food and essential commodities into markets in distressed areas; and help offset the impact on household economies of high/rising staple food prices.
 - **Ease competition for stressed natural resources** through commercial destocking; purchase and slaughter of non-core animal stock; and, where appropriate temporarily and safely relocating core breeding livestock to food secure areas;
 - **Improve access to shelter, water, fodder, feed, nutritional supplements** for small-scale and vulnerable herders so that core livestock survive and incomes in fodder-producing areas are supported through local procurement;
 - **Support sustainable community-based animal health services** that are linked to private pharmacies and promote adherence to government regulation;
 - across all interventions, **focus on assets and productive activities controlled by women** and that are of particular nutritional benefit to women, children and the elderly, such as raising milk-producing animals and growing vegetables
 - **strengthen public animal health interventions** including sanitation and food safety and surveillance and control of diseases, including vaccination campaigns;
 - **rebuild livelihoods of viable pastoralist families** through strategic restocking utilizing indigenous systems for livestock redistribution and promotion of alternative livelihoods closely linked to the livestock sector;
 - **Support small-scale crop and vegetable production** with quality seeds,

fertilizers, irrigation water, and enhanced farming skills. These inputs must be in place for the October/November 2011 short season rains.

7. Participants concurred with the need to advocate, seek and plan for **assured multi-year funding for livelihood restoration programs** for vulnerable, crisis-affected and at-risk populations to restore the health and skills of people, provide access to financial resources, restore productive assets, protect and enhance natural resources and generate an political and economic environment that reduces the risk and the severity of disasters..
8. Attendees endorsed the Africa- and country-led Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) as the most appropriate vision and strategic framework for sustainable livelihood development in Africa. Donors and national governments were encouraged to further invest in the completed CAADP national agriculture investment plans for Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, to support the early completion of the ongoing CAADP planning in Djibouti and Sudan and to assist Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan to quickly initiate their CAADP processes. The meeting also encouraged the countries of the HoA to view the CAADP as an ongoing process that required regular updates of their strategies and plans, paying particular attention to gender, livelihoods sustainability, climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk management and crisis response.
9. Participants further agreed on a number of key principles crucial to protecting and rebuilding the livelihoods of the food insecure and enhancing their longer term resilience to shocks. They include:
 - Partnerships;
 - Community participation
 - Sustained institutional commitment and support
 - Predictable resource flows from governments and donors;
 - Environmental protection and natural resource management.