

HORN OF AFRICA UPDATE



Small ruminants such as goats and sheep provide their owners in the HoA with a vast range of products and services. They provide milk, meat, skins, and wool throughout the year. They reproduce rapidly and are easily sold for cash or exchanged for other staples.

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SITUATION

The seasonal June to September rainfall performance has been generally above average over most of the region, with the exception of Southern Somalia, coastal parts of Eritrea and western South Sudan. The 32nd consensus Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum ([GHACOF32](#)) seasonal forecast indicated the increased likelihood for the occurrence of a mild to moderate El Niño event during the October to December seasonal rains in the Horn of Africa (HoA). This generally point towards a good crop production and positive pastoral conditions for the second half of 2012.

The regional food security situation has improved significantly as compared to the same time last year. Most parts of the HoA are currently in Stressed and Crisis food insecurity situations (IPC Phases 2 and 3). Currently, there are no areas in the region under Famine food insecurity (IPC Phase 5), and areas previously under Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) have drastically reduced. However, 14.5 million people in the region remain in need of humanitarian assistance, as of September 2012.

Source: FAO and FSNWG

FAO RESPONSE

Recent droughts coupled with the siltation of the valley dams and tanks, have contributed to increased water stress in the livestock sector in Uganda. This has led to animals having to travel longer distances to access the few remaining water sources and overgrazing of land around the few water tanks and reservoirs. FAO has launched a European Union funded project to strengthen the resilience of rural population and agricultural production systems in the central part of the “cattle corridor” in Uganda. The four year project titled “Global Climate Change Alliance – Uganda: Agriculture, Adaptation to Climate Change,” is expected to build capacities of communities, commercial farmers and Government of Uganda, to cope with the effects of climate change.

In a bid to improve the agropastoral production systems, FAO and Ministry of Agriculture in Djibouti conducted training on agropastoral field schools (APFs) approach. The training being carried out is part of a capacity development programme started earlier this year and is covering 5 districts in the country. The APF is an adaptation of the farmer field school approach to suit communities’ ways of life. The rationale behind the approach is to equip agropastoralists with knowledge through experimenting and later analysing the results of different livelihoods options within their community for eventual adaptation.

In spite of the prevailing insecurity in Darfur, internally displaced persons (IDPs) continue to engage in cultivation. In

North Darfur, farmers have planted as much as they can this season taking advantage of the good conditions and to compensate for the 2011 poor harvest caused by ineffectual rains. Millet and groundnuts were planted at the start of the season in sandy soils, and sorghum, groundnuts, sesame, cowpea, okra, watermelon and cucumbers have recently been planted in clay soils along the seasonal water streams. FAO operations in Sudan aim to reach 2.3 million vulnerable people through various agricultural and agriculture related livelihood options in the second half of 2012.

FAO Ethiopia is providing support to federal and regional Disaster Risk Management (DRM) – Agriculture Task Forces (ATFs). The primary purpose of the ATFs is to share information, coordinate DRM interventions in the agriculture sector, share emerging good practice as well as to harmonise interventions and approaches. In addition, the ATFs organises discussion fora to tackle cross cutting challenges and promote innovation and good practice. It is through these fora that the federal ATF have launched important information material including: briefing papers, major reports as well as produced drought and other hazard related road maps.

Policy and Investment Response

On 26 September the Director General of FAO, Mr Graziano da Silva, met with the Mr Mahboub Maalim, the Executive

Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in New York. They exchanged information on the current collaborative work and their respective initiatives (FAO's Hunger Free HoA and IGAD's Ending Drought Emergencies). They also exchanged views on how to best coordinate these initiatives and reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work together.

A workshop on Food Security Action Mapping took place in Rome from 3 – 5 September 2012. Particular emphasis was given to harmonizing action mapping with other national information systems in the HoA. A number of recommendations were provided and will be advanced by IGAD with support from partners, including FAO, as needed.

The Technical Consortium (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and FAO – coordinated by ILRI and financed by USAID) conducted a Knowledge Management and Research Workshop from 26 - 27 September in Nairobi. The goal of the workshop was to reach agreement among the broad community of research partners working in the HoA on research priorities around which to develop concept notes and proposals.

Capacity Development and Technical Support

[AgriKnowledge ShareFair: Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security in the Horn of Africa.](#) The Food and Agriculture Organization and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have taken the lead in facilitating an AgriKnowledge ShareFair for the Horn of Africa to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 23 – 25 October 2012. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Eastern African Grain Council (EAGC) are also collaborating in the preparation of this forum. Senior officials from *Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel* (CILIS) as well as countries affected by the food crisis in the Sahel will also participate at the fair. The event will offer a forum for participating ministries, farmers organizations, UN agencies, development partners and non-state actors to dynamically explore opportunities to further the adoption, adaptation, replication and up scaling of the agricultural, nutrition and food security good practices.

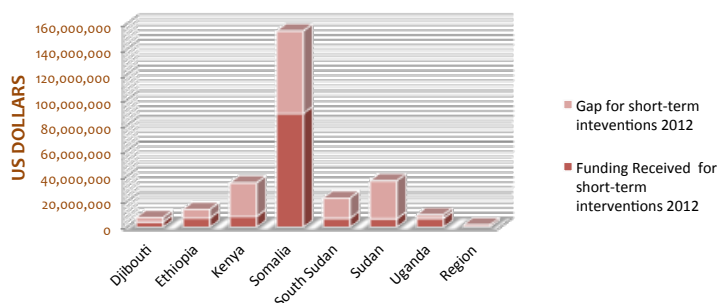
FAO, the African Union - Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and partners met on 25 – 26 September 2012, to map out strategies to curb the threat caused by the deadly *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) and other Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADS) affecting small ruminants. Actions aimed at putting in place a regional initiative in the Horn of Africa (HoA) that would prevent and control the spread of PPR across borders were recommended.

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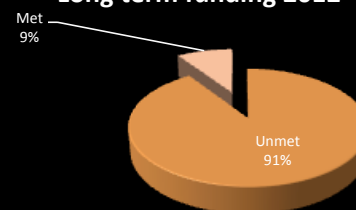
A grain stakeholder's consultative forum was held on 17 September 2012 in Addis Ababa to establish an Ethiopian Chapter of the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC). It is anticipated that upon the establishment of the EAGC Ethiopia, farmers and other stakeholders will be able to benefit from various market access tools already available in Ethiopia and being improved through this partnership with EAGC. This includes, the structured trading platforms initiatives, Warehouse Receipt Systems, established regional agricultural intelligence network as well as post harvest handling and management training. [See Photos](#)

With the aim of facilitating cross-border and intra-regional trade within the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and East African Community (EAC) a regional workshop was held in Kabale, Uganda. The workshop proposed guidelines aimed at maximizing the benefits and opportunities for sustained regional trade and market development for smallholders and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Participants from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda elaborated a number of relevant recommendations and suggestions on the appropriate policy strategies. These include, incentives, capacity development, soft infrastructures and services and a communication strategy that need to be implemented at national and regional level to facilitate access to cross-border trade for small traders and especially for women.

FUNDING



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