

HORN OF AFRICA UPDATE



Vegetable and fruit vendors displaying their goods at the main market in downtown Bahir Dar in Ethiopia. Cereal prices have continued to rise in the region mainly due to low market supply following seasonal trends, high regional demand and conflicts

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SITUATION

The long rains ended early with significant rainfall deficits being experienced across the eastern half of Kenya, parts of southern Somalia, northeastern Ethiopia, and northeastern Djibouti. The June – September rainfall season is now well established in Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan, despite the late and erratic onset. In the central Ethiopian highlands, significant rainfall deficits have accumulated since the start of the season.

The lean season in most agricultural and agropastoral areas of the Horn of Africa (HoA) is almost over. Nearly all parts of the region are in Stressed and Crisis food insecurity situations

(IPC Phase 2 & 3) with a few areas in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia facing Emergency (IPC phase 4). The lean season is the period of the year that precedes the harvest. It is usually characterized by exhausting food storages, high food prices, low assets value, liquidity constraints and high malnutrition rates.

Cereal prices have continued to rise in the region mainly due to low market supply following seasonal trends, high regional demand and conflicts.

Source: FAO, FEWSNET and FSNWG

FAO RESPONSE

A year ago, the United Nations announced a state of famine in southern Somalia. The six-month crisis that followed, caused thousands of deaths and required a massive humanitarian aid response before it was declared officially over on 3 February 2012. While the situation in Somalia and other affected parts of the HoA may be currently less alarming, the region remains fragile and continued assistance is vital to preserve food and nutrition security.

The rain season is well underway in many parts of the HoA and this has led to flooding in some areas. To respond to this, FAO office in Sudan has distributed 287 tonnes of animal feed to flood-affected livestock owners in North Darfur and Kassala States. At the same time, flood waters make animals susceptible to diseases and infections as they congregate on high ground. Vaccinations campaigns are thus being carried out in various countries with FAO availing vaccines and antibiotic medicines targeting 2 million animals especially against haemorrhagic septicaemia and east coast fever (ECF) in South Sudan. In Somalia, 18 million animals have been vaccinated against peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and

preparations for vaccination against contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) are in ongoing.

In Ethiopia, the use of pesticides in smallholder horticulture has continued to gain momentum, with importation of pesticides into the country doubling in the last six years. Despite the many and obvious advantages, pesticide use can pose serious risks to both humans and the environment. FAO, the Ethiopian Government and other partners have joined efforts aimed at establishing a sustainable pesticide management system in the country. As part of the technical assistance, FAO has provided pesticide laboratory equipment valued at USD 160 thousand to strengthen the national pesticide laboratory.

Cash-for-work (CfW) programmes are designed to increase access to food through rapid cash delivery to the households while supporting small scale food security projects. In Djibouti, CfW approach was used in the establishment/ rehabilitation gardens to benefit 80 households in severely affected regions of Tadjourah, Dikhil and Ali-Sabieh. An evaluation was carried out on the use of the cash injected through this type of intervention. The findings show that CfW

projects have significantly helped the beneficiaries to ameliorate their living conditions by enabling them to buy food, clothes, medicine and farming inputs.

Post-harvest losses due to poor storage facilities and handling practices continue to be one of the major factors contributing to food and nutrition insecurity. Losses amounting from poor storage and handling often reach as high as 70 percent. FAO and partners in Kenya have been promoting the use of metal silo technology for the post harvest storage of grains. These have in been successful in reducing post harvest losses to almost zero in some cases. FAO has trained 16 artisans in eastern Kenya in the fabrication of airtight metal silos and they have since been able to manufacture 300 metal silos. These have been distributed to farmer groups for evaluation and promotion.

In an effort to improve food security and diversify livelihood opportunities in Northern Uganda, FAO has been engaged in seed multiplication projects. FAO distributed 14.4 tonnes of foundation crop seeds, 6.6 thousand kits of assorted vegetable and 480 ox-ploughs to farmers in the Karamoja region. This has allowed farmers to cultivate 2.8 hectares of seed multiplication blocks farms assisting 13 thousand households.

Policy and Investment Response

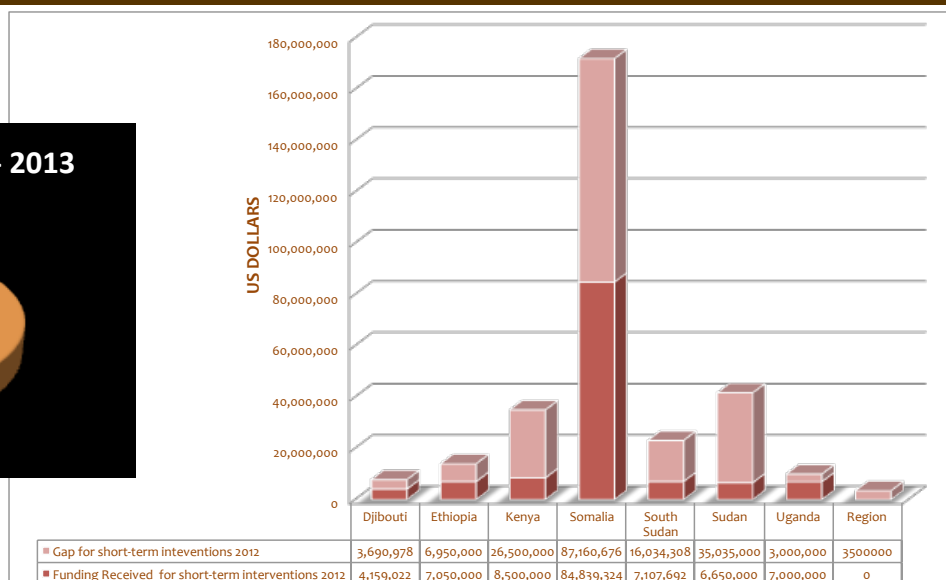
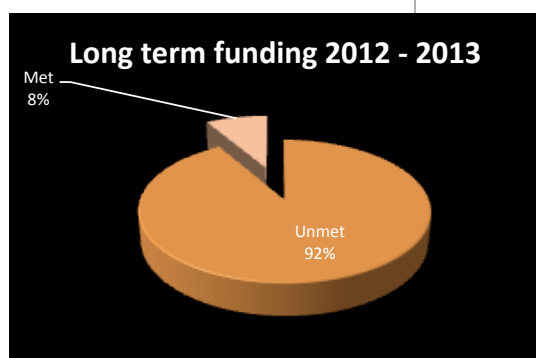
The process of formulating the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is progressing. The regional team supporting this process is expected to

derive, five thematic papers from the seven country papers being prepared. A regional synthesis paper will also be developed as well as a CAADP compact focusing on national priorities of the countries.

On 2 and 3 July, the inaugural Interim Steering Committee meeting of the IGAD Regional Platform for Drought Resilience and Sustainability took place in Djibouti. Representatives from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, as well as development partners and African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) attended the meeting. On behalf of the Global Alliance for Resilience and Growth, FAO gave a summary report on meeting held in mid-June in Geneva. The meeting outlined the roles and functions of the Platform as well as noted the progress being made with the Country Programme Papers (CPPs) and the Regional Programming Framework (RPF) for building drought resilience.

A Technical Consortium (FAO, ILRI and IGAD) - that is providing support to the HoA countries in the finalization of their CPPs - had a three-day technical meeting in Addis Ababa in mid July. The objectives of the workshop were, to contribute in harmonizing the approach to developing drought resilience capacities in the region and prepare the ground for CPPs' results frameworks. This is expected to improve the alignment between CPPs and RPF. In this meeting a draft results framework for IGAD's RPF was developed. Following this, FAO organized a workshop to provide concrete methodological and technical guidance for the preparation of the CPP results framework for Ethiopia.

FUNDING



CONTACTS

Mr Castro Camarada | Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa |
Castro.Camarada@fao.org

Ms Cristina Amaral | Chief - Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division |
Cristina.Amaral@fao.org

