

HIGHLIGHTS

- While the number of severely food insecure and famine-affected people has fallen since the height of the drought crisis, **high food prices and the large displaced population continue to strain food security** across the Horn of Africa.
- In Somalia, the number of people in crisis has **fallen from 4 to 2.34 million people**. However, high rates of malnutrition, insecurity and the suspension of key humanitarian actors by Al Shabab continue to be of concern.
- Violence in the border states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile, combined with erratic and late onset of rains in 2011 have resulted in **poor yields in the Sudan** – with harvests at only 50 percent of the previous year.
- **Over 1 million people are likely to be severely food insecure in South Sudan in 2012** owing to a combination of violence, erratic rains and high food and fuel prices, leading to a deficit of about 50 percent of cereal needs.

CURRENT FUNDING RECEIVED FOR FAO'S 2011 DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAMME

Country	FAO funding requirements*	Funds received to-date**	Funds in the pipeline [^]	Total funds received + pipeline	Funding gap
Somalia	70 000 000	63 258 965	1 000 000	64 258 965	5 741 035
Ethiopia	12 500 000	4 854 580	0	4 854 580	7 645 420
Kenya	27 260 000	6 331 128	1 680 000	8 011 128	19 248 872
Djibouti	6 540 918	2 968 757	600 000	3 568 757	2 972 161
Regional	1 900 000	848 302	0	848 302	1 051 698
South Sudan	15 878 300	3 742 591	0	3 742 591	12 135 709
Sudan	21 000 000	0	0	0	21 000 000
Uganda	6 000 000	0	0	0	6 000 000
Total	161 079 218	82 004 323	3 280 000	85 284 323	75 794 895

* This refers to FAO's 2011 funding requirements and does not include FAO's funding needs outlined under the 2012 Consolidated Appeals (CAPs)

**This is reflected in the UNOCHA Financial Tracking System and FAO's Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS)

[^]This reflects funding pledged but not yet received.

Note: The regional projects have been split by country in the above table, while in FPMIS, for technical reasons, regional projects are not split by country, but show the total of the project including all the countries.

SOMALIA

Latest situation

Humanitarian and food security situation: According to the latest reports (February 2012) by the FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, famine conditions no longer exist in southern Somalia, yet nearly one-third of the population (31 percent) remains in crisis. The humanitarian assistance and impact of the good *Deyr* harvest has mitigated the most extreme food deficits and significantly reduced both acute malnutrition and mortality levels, resulting in a reduction of crisis levels to the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) levels Phase 4 and Phase 3.

The number of people in crisis is currently estimated at **2.34 million down from the previous 4 million (73 percent of whom are in southern regions)**. However, in most parts of the south, acute malnutrition rates remain above 20 percent and depict a critical nutrition and vulnerability situation. Malnutrition figures for other parts are not yet available owing to security restrictions.

The current *Deyr* harvest, although exceptional at 200 percent of the average, only provides 10 to 20 percent of annual domestic requirements. Hence, cereal deficits remain for the year and will have to be filled through the upcoming major harvest in August, commercial imports and humanitarian assistance.

Food security outcomes have also improved for pastoralists throughout the country owing to pasture and surface water

Livestock exports through the northern ports of Berbera and Bosasso reached a record level of 4.8 million head for 2011.

Security: In the last six months, there has been continued fighting in south-central Somalia, with Kenya's military incursion into Lower Juba in November 2011 exacerbating insecurity in that area. There have been continued displacements in hotspot areas, while trade routes have been disrupted, particularly those from Kismayo Port into districts of Juba and Gedo regions, affecting access and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The ban on humanitarian organizations from southern Somalia by Al Shabab has further aggravated this situation.

Markets: The current price of locally produced cereals continues to fall below prices at the same time last year owing to increased local supplies from the harvest and relief interventions. Positive trends in cereal prices and purchasing power are directly linked to harvest plus humanitarian interventions, including cash transfers.

The outlook will largely depend on the performance of the next rains (March-June), although the current forecast predicts average rains, it is still too early to confidently confirm. Of great concern are the reduced access to life-saving humanitarian interventions, such as health, nutrition rehabilitation and water and sanitation following the recent suspension by Al Shabab of key actors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In the event of the worst-case scenario of below-normal rains, further population displacement as a result of increased military activities, unmanaged disease outbreaks and trade restrictions, affecting cereal flow, famine conditions could return.

Rainfall update: With the *Deyr* season coming to an end, the weekly weather updates by SWALIM will be replaced with monthly updates. SWALIM will start releasing the weekly updates with the start of the *Gu* 2012 rainy season.

Ongoing FAO activities

- Restoring farmers' crop production capacity – 158 333 households are receiving quality inputs and training on good agricultural practices. Field reports indicate that all seeds have been distributed, while some of the fertilizers have been recalled to Mogadishu for safekeeping after local authorities denied implementing partners' permission to transport and distribute.
- Safeguarding the livelihoods of small-scale herders – providing materials and technical assistance to strengthen the fodder production capacity of 30 000 herders. Procurement of inputs for fodder production is in progress, to be distributed by mid-February 2012.
- Emergency disease surveillance, treatment and vaccination – recently completed a campaign against internal and external parasites, common infectious diseases and blood parasites and currently preparing a mass vaccination campaign against *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) to benefit 125 462 households.
- Destocking for nutrition support and post-drought restocking – restocking by providing two goats each to 5 000 households to commence by mid-February 2012.
- Providing collapsible water tanks and water trucking – targeting 10 000 households with collapsible water tanks to meet the needs of both animals and humans – the water tanks are currently en route to Mogadishu.
- Cash-for-work – targeting 130 000 households, who will benefit from USD 3 per day for 72 working days while rehabilitating productive infrastructure, such as water catchments, water canals, and bush clearing of feeder roads. To-date, over 115 000 households have benefited under this component, with over USD 13 million disbursed between July 2011 and January 2012. On average, over USD 1 million is injected into the communities each week. Infrastructure under rehabilitation – over 1 500 km of canals, 130 feeder roads and 400 water catchments are being rehabilitated through the programme.

Priorities in 2012

FAO's proposed assistance is described in the 2012 CAP (**USD 180 million**) as well as under the longer-term resilience-based programming for Somalia (**USD 88 million**), under development. The CAP 2012 includes:

- enhancing access to life-saving resources through increased purchasing power and supporting production through cash-for-work schemes, training in good production practices for crop and vegetable production, training in animal health and production, distribution of water vouchers, provision of vital inputs (livestock, seeds, tools, irrigation equipment), livestock vaccination and treatment, training on processing and conservation methods, training of community animal health workers (CAHWs), support to veterinary laboratories, etc.;
- continued support to the FSNAU to undertake seasonal assessments and nutrition surveys, biannual IPC, disseminate findings, conduct a knowledge, attitudes and practices survey and research studies on infant and young child feeding practices, disseminate key messages and recommendations to stakeholders, support the development of government-led early warning analysis in Somliland and Puntland, and training local NGOs in food security assessment methodology;
- strengthening the capacity of local and international organizations for emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction, focusing on reinforcing the Somalia water sources database, developing a map of water sources, training partners on SWIMS mapping, developing flood risk and response management information systems for other emergencies, establishing a data collection network, improving methods for drought and flash flood monitoring and early warning, and developing partners' capacity to use this information for response;

- strengthening partners' and institutions' capacity for resilience building, emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction through assessing the use of rainwater harvesting, recommending areas for strategic rainwater harvesting, identifying suitable technologies, developing a river embankment GIS database, developing guidelines and best practices for river embankment rehabilitation, improving drought and flood monitoring methods, and developing channels to communicate drought and flood information to communities;
- in partnership with UNCHR, supporting the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees to their place of origin by providing relevant livelihoods kits (e.g. animals, agricultural inputs, fishing gear) along with training in their use and in food processing and marketing;
- protecting and enhancing fisheries-based livelihoods through cash-for-work interventions, awareness campaigns on good fishing practices and the benefits of fish consumption, training on fish handling and hygiene and on marketing, and provision of fishing gear and processing equipment; and
- strengthening the capacity of the Food Security Cluster to implement the Cluster strategic plan, monitor and report on interventions and effectively administer humanitarian interventions through regular coordination meetings and information sharing, providing technical support, facilitating Cluster planning, assessing capacities and identifying gaps in programming, and providing training as needed on assessments, monitoring, gender, etc.

Given the ongoing humanitarian crisis, FAO is currently focusing on seeking USD 172 million for the life-saving emergency components of the 2012 CAP, which it seeks to implement through a single multidonor-funded programme rather than separate projects. To that effect, donors are being approached to trust FAO with their contributions on the basis of its 2012 Emergency Response Programme document, which will bring about the operational flexibility – needed particularly in the fluid context of Somalia – to adjust activities to changing priorities on the ground. The programme approach also features streamlined reporting to the donor community, increased transparency and accountability to the humanitarian world, and a cut back on operational and administrative costs.

Resilience-based programming will focus on:

- agricultural development through the provision of improved, high quality agricultural inputs and services to farmers, development of irrigation infrastructure, reduction of on-farm post-harvest losses and preservation of produce quality, and improving markets and market information systems;
- management of animal health, livestock production and range management, and livestock marketing;
- fisheries development;
- sustainable environmental management; and
- information systems (FSNAU and SWALIM).

Further efforts will be invested in ensuring synergetic and multi-agency partnerships, which are fundamental for ensuring a holistic approach to resilience programming. Key UN agencies for partnership in Somalia include UNICEF and WFP.

DJIBOUTI

Priorities in 2012

FAO's proposed assistance is articulated in the 2012 CAP for Djibouti. FAO is seeking **USD 7 850 000** to support efforts to reduce chronic food insecurity and rebuild the livelihoods of rural households.

FAO's main activities outlined in the 2012 CAP for Djibouti include:

- enhancing crop production capacity by providing agricultural inputs (i.e. drought-tolerant seeds, tools), organizing training on improved dryland crop production, rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure through cash-for-work schemes, promoting urban gardening, supporting small-scale fodder and vegetable production, and promoting afforestation;
- improving livestock production through conducting a livestock census, vaccinating animals, supporting the community animal health workers' network, organizing training on animal health and improved production techniques, destocking or restocking herds as appropriate, developing agropastoral infrastructure in and around refugee camps through cash-for-work activities, and introducing livestock programmes in refugee camps; and
- increasing access to water for nomadic and agropastoral communities by rehabilitating water points, establishing underground cisterns, setting up and training water committees, providing irrigation and water harvesting equipment, supporting the design of a data collection and monitoring system to feed into the Cluster and the IPC, and building the capacity of government and other partners engaged in food security and disaster risk management interventions.

Latest situation

Following the 2011 La Nina-induced drought in the southern rangelands, the autumn rains of 2011 were normal to above normal. As a result, the availability of water and pastures is much enhanced in most areas. This has led to a strengthening of livestock body condition and many animals are again entering the breeding cycle. Livestock prices are also on the rise, in particular for cattle and goats. Grain prices have also stabilized with the result that household purchasing power is improving, as is household food security. It will, however, take until the end of the year until milk production returns to the level of more 'normal' years.

In the highlands of Ethiopia, the 2011 harvest appears to be above normal and, with strong grain prices, smallholder farmers are benefiting from good farm-gate prices. However, cereal price inflation is over 60 percent with the result that poorer smallholder farmers, who are also net consumers, will have to pay more for their food. The urban poor are also being forced to spend more of their disposable income on food, which reduces the amount of money for rent, health and school fees. Food security, therefore, will remain a challenge until food prices stabilize.

Ongoing FAO activities

In 2011, FAO Ethiopia's disaster risk management (DRM)/emergencies programme secured funding worth almost USD 10 million from a variety of donors to implement relief and rehabilitation interventions. These interventions include the following:

1. Support to the livestock sector through DRM-related programme and policy interventions aimed at strengthening pastoral and agropastoral livelihoods and resilience to drought and related hazards:
 - transboundary disease surveillance;
 - animal health interventions – improved public sector delivery of vaccination campaigns and private sector delivery of treatment;
 - improved rangeland management; and
 - coordination and delivery of the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards- related interventions in times of drought – animal health, livestock feed supplementation, commercial and slaughter destocking and water point rehabilitation.
2. Support to smallholder farmers to improve production and productivity and to diversify cropping patterns to improve food and nutrition security:
 - rehabilitation of irrigation structures;
 - multiplication and distribution of high quality root and tuber crop planting material; and
 - support to Government-led wheat rust management through bulking of disease-tolerant varieties and distribution of fungicides.
3. Natural resource management:
 - support to pastoral and agropastoral communities for improved rangeland management including the rehabilitation of traditional wells.

Priorities in 2012

With improving agro-ecological conditions, FAO Ethiopia is slowly transitioning from drought response to early recovery and rehabilitation interventions in line with the DRM-Agriculture Task Force's Briefing Paper 4, entitled "*La Niña* early recovery and rehabilitation road map". The road map emphasizes the following:

- *improved animal health*: to ensure breeding livestock remain healthy, productive and reproductive – support to routine vaccinations and vector control, in particular for transboundary diseases;
- *restocking*: in particular with local breeds purchased from within the same ecosystem after the spring rains, when pastures are more fully recovered;
- *customary institution strengthening*: in particular to safeguard dry season/drought grazing areas and the associated improvement of water points for livestock drinking water;
- *supplementary livestock feed*: the establishment of private fodder traders/groups and increased production of irrigated fodder, including green maize, while ensuring that crop production does not encroach on key dry season/drought grazing areas;
- *grain markets*: support to stabilize further local grain markets and preparation of plans for improved grain price stabilization in future droughts;
- *cash transfers*: improved access through cash-for-work schemes, direct cash transfers and improved access to credit through special government-led early recovery facilities – recommended activities include maintenance and rehabilitation of flood-damaged wells and livestock drinking ponds; and
- *smallholder farmer support*: in particular in drought-prone drylands through diversification of cropping, improved soil and water conservation, flood mitigation, and improved market integration.

Latest situation

By the end of 2011, an estimated **3.75 million** people in Kenya were at crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity. The main challenges facing agricultural livelihoods in Kenya include:

- persistent pockets of vulnerability, particularly in the arid and semi-arid lands in northern and eastern parts of the country, where livestock production is central to livelihoods and pastoralists have limited alternatives;
- increasingly frequent climatic events that reduce resilience and ability to recover from shocks, which particularly hit semi-nomadic communities;
- outbreaks of *aflatoxin* (affecting grain storage) and animal diseases, such as Rift Valley fever (RVF) and PPR;
- volatile food prices, which were exacerbated by the drought in the region;
- an influx of over 500 000 refugees from Somalia, concentrated around Dadaab, placing additional strain on host communities; and
- population growth, which has intensified pressure on natural resources and reduced national capacity to respond to drought and floods, contributing to a rise in resource-based conflicts between pastoralists and cattle rustling in 2011.

Ongoing FAO activities

- support to animal health – RVF, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and PPR vaccinations, treatment of animals, parasite control, training in animal health and the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, capacity development of government services, strengthening disease monitoring systems, public awareness raising and cost-recovery;
- slaughter and commercial destocking, restocking herds, and feed supplementation for livestock;
- drought preparedness and mitigation for agropastoral communities;
- implementing the IPC;
- constructing and rehabilitating soil and water structures, such as water harvesting facilities;
- expansion of small-scale irrigation using drip irrigation technology;
- cash-for-work schemes to provide instant relief to the most at-risk households, as well as build infrastructure;
- increasing access to high quality agricultural inputs and decreasing vulnerability and dependency on imported food throughout affected communities – in particular, the production of drought-tolerant crops has been promoted through the provision of seeds and training, while storage conditions for grain have also improved through training and the distribution of equipment to prevent aflatoxin outbreaks;
- establishing farmer and pastoral field schools to build capacity within affected communities; and
- conducting a widespread study, not only of capacity gaps and beneficiary needs, but also of best practice for post-harvest handling, natural resource management and methods to ensure the adaptation of best practices, with the goal of developing a best practices guideline and training and online courses that respond to the actual needs of the food insecure in Kenya.

In 2011, FAO, in partnership with NGOs and the Government of Kenya, reached some 250 000 households, or 1.5 million direct beneficiaries. Activities included support to animal health; drought-resistant crop production and storage; irrigation; and natural resource management. Furthermore, 200 government and NGO staff were trained in animal health and crop production. Through weekly radio training, 6 000 individuals were certified in dairy production, with a weekly audience of 1.2 million people.

Priorities in 2012

Priority areas in 2012 largely remain the same, with greater emphasis on empowering communities in natural resource management and through livelihood diversification.

On 5 February, FAO will lead the short rains assessment. The three-week mission will involve 11 teams and visit 30 counties. The outcome of the assessment will serve to inform the Government, donors and relief partners on priority needs and areas of intervention.

The main focus of FAO's drought response in Kenya during 2012 will be to help pastoral communities living in arid and semi-arid lands to counter the effects of the ongoing drought and food security crisis, and better prepare for drought in the future.

FAO is seeking USD 20 380 000 to undertake the following:

- enhancing food security in marginal agricultural areas through improved storage by building government and NGO capacity to conduct awareness campaigns about the impact of *aflatoxin* and pests, training on handling grains and appropriate storage to reduce pest damage and *aflatoxin* contamination, training on post-harvest technologies and integrated pest management, procuring and distributing metal silos, supporting monitoring of *aflatoxin* and pest damage, and training in silo construction;
- supporting early warning, food security information and coordination through training government and NGO staff on collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating early warning and food security information, conducting short and long rains assessments and market studies and building communities' capacities in disaster risk reduction;
- enhancing agricultural production through cash- and voucher-for-work schemes, water harvesting, small-scale irrigation, agroforestry and seedling production;
- supporting crop production by distributing farming inputs (drought-tolerant seeds, fertilizer, tools) through input fairs, training farmers on improved dryland crop production and diversification, training on community-based seed bulking to strengthen resilience and building capacity on post-harvest handling;
- increasing livestock production and protecting existing livestock assets by providing feed, rehabilitating rangelands, providing seeds and training on feed production and storage, strengthening livestock disease surveillance and control, destocking and restocking herds as appropriate, and build capacity for livelihood diversification and improved resilience; and
- promoting urban and peri-urban agriculture by conducting awareness campaigns about small-scale urban agriculture, hygiene and nutrition, involving women and youth groups in improving sanitation in informal settlements, promoting small-scale vegetable gardens for women and youth groups and providing them with seeds, tools and training,

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ongoing FAO activities

FAO's activities at the regional level have included food security coordination, response analysis and early warning, promoting disease-free cassava varieties, regional drought mitigation and support to food security through better integrating HIV/AIDS and gender issues.

Concerted efforts are still required to ensure that emergency food and nutrition security needs are fully met and access to all affected people is ensured, nutrition support is scaled up, the livelihood assets of vulnerable, small-scale herders are protected, resources for crop and vegetable production are secured for the spring 2012 planting season, and vulnerable households are shielded from rising food prices.

FAO commitment to Quality and Accountability

FAO's Regional Emergency Office for Eastern Africa (REOA) is piloting an impact measurement methodology – People First Impact Method (PFIM) – in Kenya. This involves moving away from the usual agency/project-centred way of conducting evaluations, which usually assesses the impact of a specific project or agency for a community.

The PFIM methodology highlights the importance of starting from the perspective of the community. The local team of multistakeholders are trained in the methodology and roll out focus groups in communities to ensure a holistic approach to impact measurement.

This impact measurement is currently being rolled out in Mwingi, northeastern Kenya, with the involvement of the Joint Standards Initiatives (SPHERE, HAP and People in Aid) hosted by FAO REOA for their deployment in the Horn of Africa.

FSWNG and IGAD partnership

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Executive Secretary, Mr Mahboub Maalim, officially launched the co-chairing of the FSNWG meetings by IGAD on 19 January 2012 in Nairobi Kenya. This follows the successful signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and IGAD on 15 November 2011. The meeting was also attended by 55 participants drawn from the donor community, international NGOs, UN agencies and IGAD. The official co-chairing by IGAD is a very important step towards institutionalizing the coordination of food security and nutrition initiatives in the region. IGAD will also be facilitating the implementation of the Horn of Africa Plan of Action. The collaboration will further cement the linkage between the FSNWG and the new IGAD platform that was launched on 21 January in Djibouti, following the recommendations of the consultative meeting "Ending Drought Emergencies in the Horn of Africa" in November 2011.

New Pastoral Field School (PFS) manual for training of facilitators

A writeshop event was held on 18-20 January in Nairobi for the development of a Training of Facilitators (TOF) Manual in the PFS approach. The event that was co-funded by SDC and EC and brought together PFS practitioners, FAO country teams and government representatives from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. The manual will greatly assist PFS Master Trainers in the running and quality of TOF courses across the region. Apart from PFS methodological aspects, the TOF training manual includes participatory tools for the mainstreaming of natural resource and range management, animal health and production, HIV and gender.

SOUTH SUDAN

Latest situation

Security and conflict: The situation has become increasingly volatile in some areas. As the dry season progresses and competition for water rises, tribes (Murle and Lou Nuer) continue to carry out tit-for-tat cattle raids, child abductions and attacks. Humanitarian partners are preparing for a worst case scenario of 800 000 refugees from inter-tribal conflict and militia attacks. The conflict has increased demands on the already overstretched humanitarian operations. Efforts have been particularly constrained by the lack of humanitarian air assets in South Sudan.

Agriculture, food security and livelihoods: Adverse weather conditions, closure of the border with Sudan, rising food and fuel prices, escalating poverty and growing insecurity are seriously affecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people.

Conflict and insecurity disrupted the 2011 agricultural season, limiting the area planted and causing forcible displacement of farming communities at key moments in the agriculture calendar. According to the preliminary findings of the FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (November 2011), South Sudan is likely to have a cereal deficit of over 470 000 tonnes in 2012, corresponding to around half of its annual cereal requirements.

More than 1 million people are estimated to be severely food insecure in 2012, increasing by more than 100 000 as compared with 2011. Nearly 4 million others are expected to be on the borderline of hunger, in the 'moderately food insecure' category.

Since late 2010, more than 360 000 South Sudanese have returned to the country. This has increased pressure on food security, reducing the availability of food. Food prices are also expected to remain high, increasing the humanitarian caseload. In some cases, prices have tripled as compared with the same time last year.

Furthermore, over 2.7 million livestock (cattle, sheep and goats) are threatened by endemic livestock disease outbreaks, such as CBPP, PPR, anthrax and haemorrhagic septicaemia.

Ongoing FAO activities

- In rural areas, FAO provides crop production inputs, organizes seed fairs and trains farmers on animal traction, energy-saving stoves and conservation agriculture.
- Fisheries production provides critical livelihoods support to many families living along the Nile and Sobat Rivers, around other small bodies of water and during periods of flooding. FAO and its partners are supporting fishing households through the provision of adapted fishing equipment and sustainable fisheries know-how.
- Through its farmer field school approach, FAO is intensifying the promotion of dry season vegetable farming, aimed at helping vulnerable communities, particularly women, to improve their food security, incomes and nutritional status.
- South Sudan has an estimated 8 million head of cattle and over 16 million sheep and goats. Livestock rearing generally follows a semi-nomadic agropastoralist system, combining cattle and small ruminant production with some crop cultivation. FAO manages South Sudan's cold chain network, which includes vaccines procured by FAO and the government. In 2012, FAO is planning to vaccinate 28 percent of all animals in South Sudan.
- In response to the Jonglei crisis, FAO has begun organizing the distribution of fishing gear and vegetable production kits to Boma, Pibor and Likuangole. Furthermore, FAO will provide vaccines and antibiotics to forestall the spread of disease in livestock. Delivery depends on cargo space in available transport and storage on location.

Priorities in 2012

In 2012, FAO is seeking to restore agricultural production and food access for over **1.1 million** people. FAO is seeking **USD 23 142 000** under the 2012 CAP for South Sudan, with the main activities being:

- enhancing the food security of vulnerable households by increasing access to farming inputs through seed fairs, conducting a seed system security assessment to ensure appropriate targeting of directly distributed seeds and tools, promoting conservation agriculture, strengthening livestock disease surveillance and control, vaccination and treatment of livestock, and improving access to fishing gear;
- enhancing the income security of vulnerable groups, including demobilized ex-combatants through market-oriented agricultural production by providing fruit and vegetable seeds/seedlings, distributing farming tools, training on horticultural production, distributing micro-irrigation equipment, constructing vegetable market stalls, providing microgrants for enterprises, training on food handling and processing, providing inputs for poultry and small ruminant production, and providing inputs for seed multiplication; and
- strengthening the FSL Cluster for effective emergency planning and response through training activities for state-level Cluster focal points, facilitating Cluster meetings and joint planning to ensure coverage of needs and gaps, strengthening vulnerability analysis and monitoring of Cluster interventions, and providing technical support and training for crop production, seed multiplication, disaster risk reduction, etc.

Latest situation

Security and conflict: Tension along the South Sudan-Sudan border has spread and is now affecting all areas along the border. In June 2011, hostilities broke out in Southern Kordofan state of the Sudan between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement-North, followed by fighting in Blue Nile state, which has affected at least 500 000 people.

Agriculture, food security and livelihoods: The late onset and erratic rainfall between July and September 2011 has meant significantly reduced 2011/12 summer season crop production as compared with last year. Preliminary findings of FAO's Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission – conducted in December 2011 – show markedly poor crop performance in central and eastern regions. An estimated 3.6 million ha of sorghum is expected to be harvested – less than half of last year's harvest. Only 50 percent of the area planted with millet is expected to be harvested.

The armed conflict in Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile coincided with critical phases of the 2011 planting season and was coupled with prolonged dry spells. Insecurity in Darfur also hindered crop production and marketing. In Eastern Sudan, poor rainfall caused a decrease in cultivated land by more than one-third and only 24 percent of that area was able to be harvested. In many locations, household food stocks are likely to run low by March, instead of the usual May/June. Food shortages will aggravate the already precarious situation of IDPs, returnees, refugees and vulnerable host communities, especially those currently affected by conflict.

Rangeland and livestock water points have also been badly affected by the poor rains, and there is a serious fodder gap in some parts. Seasonal livestock migrations to South Sudan – which historically hosts over 18 million migrant animals from the Sudan – have been disrupted, affecting livestock-dependent populations in Darfur, Kordofan and East Sudan. This has caused high concentrations of livestock at the wrong place and wrong time, leading to localized conflicts with farmers, natural resource degradation and excess livestock morbidity and mortality due to lack of fodder and water. Inadequate vaccine coverage likely means that flocks and herds are increasingly vulnerable to disease outbreaks.

Ongoing FAO activities

Crop production:

- distribution of improved crop and vegetable seeds and quality, locally-made agricultural tools;
- strengthening and supporting the community-based seed production and supply system; and
- training in improved farming practices.

Livestock health and production:

- interventions to safeguard the livelihoods of herders such as vaccinating and treating livestock to increase productivity; and
- supporting and strengthening disaster risk reduction strategies related to livestock.

Environment restoration and protection: supporting sustainable resource management including establishing nurseries, training in the production and use of fuel-efficient stoves and establishing fodder banks.

Livelihoods diversification:

- training ex-combatants, IDPs and other vulnerable groups in livelihoods diversification such as blacksmithing, cheese-making and other agroprocessing activities; and
- interventions to safeguard livelihoods of herders and fishing families (e.g. improved livestock disease surveillance, training of CAHWs, distribution of fishing kits, support for boat-building and net-braiding and training on sustainable fishing practices).

Sector coordination: coordinating the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) cluster interventions to enhance collaboration with partner agencies and improve overall capacity, accountability, preparedness and response planning.

Priorities in 2012

FAO is seeking **USD 41 685 000** under the 2012 CAP for the Sudan in order to restore agricultural production and food access for almost **3.5 million** people. The main activities planned include:

- supporting the restoration and maintenance of food and livelihood security for vulnerable households in Darfur by providing improved crop and vegetable seeds, distributing hand tools and small-scale irrigation equipment, providing training on improved crop production and agro-processing, conducting assessments, supporting seed multiplication, cash-for-work programmes, livestock vaccination and treatment, supporting community animal health workers, rehabilitating state veterinary laboratories, training veterinarians on disease control and surveillance, monitoring livestock migration, rehabilitating and protecting degraded pastures, providing training on energy-saving technologies, and promoting resource-based conflict resolution;
- strengthening coordination with the FSL Sector through regular meetings and information sharing, organizing training for partners on programmatic issues (e.g. assessments, monitoring, disaster risk reduction, market-based interventions, gender), promoting the collection and analysis of information, leading the development and use of existing guidelines and standards, and providing technical support for crop, livestock and fisheries production, as well as natural resource management; and
- restoring and improving the food and livelihood security of vulnerable households in the Three Protocol Areas and Eastern Sudan by providing agricultural inputs, conducting seed system security and pre-/post-harvest assessments, organizing training on crop production, supporting peri-urban agriculture, supporting seed multiplication, establishing and rehabilitating water points, providing livestock feed supplements, establishing sero-surveillance and disease mapping, promoting livestock disease reporting, vaccinating and treating livestock, training women on energy-saving technologies, establishing pilot water schemes in each state, and supporting the formation of women's groups.

LINKS

Disaster risk reduction: www.disasterriskreduction.net
FAO: <http://www.fao.org/crisis/horn-africa/home/en>
FSNAU: www.fsnau.org
FAO and emergencies: http://www.fao.org/emergencies/country_information/list/regional/crisishoa/en/
SWALIM: www.faoswalim.org

CONTACTS

Ms Cristina Amaral
Chief, Emergency Operations Service
Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma, Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 53290
E-mail: Cristina.Amaral@fao.org