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Somalia

Background

Somalia remains one of the most challenging and worrying humanitarian crises in the world. Human suffering has soared despite the progress of recovery efforts and the resilience of conflict- and climate-affected populations. According to the latest assessment of the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased by 13 percent, from 3.17 million to 3.64 million since January 2009. Fierce fighting in Mogadishu from May 2009 onwards forced more than 210 000 people to flee their homes, which marked the biggest exodus since the Ethiopian intervention in 2007. Reports indicate that approximately 1.55 million individuals are currently internally displaced.

The lack of central governance over the past 18 years has fuelled chronic vulnerability and malnutrition levels, leaving the country without the necessary resources to deliver basic social services. High food prices and a 25 percent decline in remittances from the Somali diaspora have severely reduced the purchasing power and depleted the coping mechanisms of local populations. Increasing access to food, means of production and livelihood options is paramount to strengthening self-reliance among vulnerable populations.

Challenges facing food security

Persisting insecurity, natural disasters and widespread displacements have devastated the income sources of millions across Somalia. While the livelihoods of 80 percent of the population depend on agriculture and livestock, rural households are unable to produce sufficient food to cover their daily food requirements and must rely heavily on commercial or food aid imports. Malnutrition rates in southern and central Somalia are among the highest in the world, with one in six children acutely malnourished.

For the past five years, Somalia has endured prolonged droughts and poor rainfall, the consequences of which are compounded by civil unrest and fierce competition over scarce natural resources. In many parts of the country, severe water shortages are decimating livestock herds and destitute pastoralists are gathering in villages and towns in search of assistance. The seasonal rains are expected to intensify at the end of 2009, paving the way for improved crop and livestock production. However, increased precipitation poses risks including flooding and associated increases in malaria and other waterborne diseases such as the re-emergence of Rift Valley fever (RVF).



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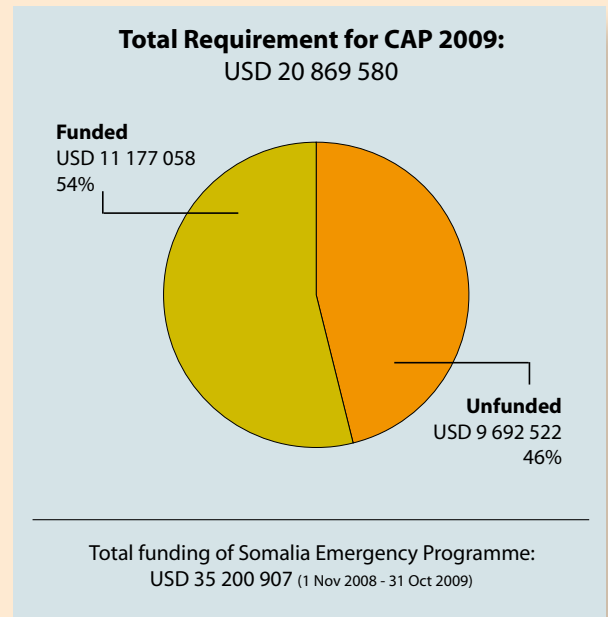
Violence directed at humanitarian personnel continued, with 69 security incidents reported since January 2009. Increased volatility resulted in humanitarian organizations withdrawing their staff, while others temporarily suspended their programmes in certain areas. Furthermore, rampant piracy has disrupted critical supply routes to central and southern Somalia, impeding the delivery of relief assistance in rural areas.

FAO response

In 2010, FAO seeks to continue empowering households to resume agricultural and livestock production while addressing the root causes of food insecurity. With donor funding, FAO aims to distribute agricultural tools, fertilizers and high-yielding seed varieties based on region-specific needs, supplemented by the delivery of training components on sound farming practices, improved nutrition and hygiene.

Proposed interventions to enhance pastoral livelihoods include the distribution of livestock, the vaccination and treatment of animals against the most prevalent diseases, increasing the capacities of animal disease surveillance, ensuring the rehabilitation of key irrigation infrastructure through cash-for-work schemes, and support to enhancing food preservation techniques and storage systems.

In line with the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster, FAO intends to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to cope with ongoing and future shocks. To this end, key activities consist of establishing country-wide cluster support offices, which in turn, will strengthen coordination among actors in the sector through improved information sharing and consensus-building on emergency response options. Through the FSNAU, FAO aims to continue to provide evidence-based analysis of food nutrition and livelihood security, enabling humanitarian stakeholders to address the needs of affected communities in a timely manner.



PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE**Total funding requested: USD 21 244 500**

Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit 2010	
Objectives:	To ensure that the FSNAU continues to deliver timely and relevant food security, livelihood and nutrition information and analysis on emergency situations to inform emergency response activities during a 12-month project timeframe.
Activities:	Conduct monthly briefings and presentations to partners; carry out monthly food security and nutrition surveillance; conduct two cycles of representative nutrition surveys in crisis-prone areas; conduct two interagency seasonal field assessments and analysis workshops; produce and disseminate monthly food security and nutrition publications; carry out urban and rural baseline livelihood assessments; and continue processing, analysis and management of data.
Beneficiaries:	Affected populations identified from FSNAU's assessments, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, donors and local authorities.
Implementing partners:	No direct implementing partners, but local and international NGOs, local authorities and Government line ministries will participate in assessments and surveys.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 3 550 000.

Emergency support to pastoral and agropastoral communities in humanitarian emergency and acute food and livelihood crises

Objectives:	To increase the resilience of pastoral and agropastoral households by protecting livestock assets through the provision of water, fodder and animal health services.
Activities:	Rehabilitate 100 water catchment areas and basic infrastructure for food production and preservation through cash-for-work schemes; integrate crop and livestock activities for the production of animal feed; enhance the operational capacity of livestock disease surveillance and control systems; and conduct the vaccination and treatment of livestock against the most prevalent diseases.
Beneficiaries:	385 000 people (including 231 000 women).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Livestock, local and international NGOs and veterinary professionals.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 11 457 500.

Improve food security among vulnerable farming households in Hiran, Bakol, Gedo and Middle Shabelle regions by increasing agricultural production through the provision of basic agricultural inputs

Objectives:	To restore the livelihoods and enhance the food security of 75 000 vulnerable farming households in humanitarian emergency and acute food and livelihood crisis.
Activities:	Distribute technology packages including maize, sorghum and cereal seeds, fertilizers and agricultural tools; deliver training components on improved agricultural, nutrition and hygiene practices; and conduct HIV/AIDS awareness raising initiatives.
Beneficiaries:	75 000 vulnerable farming households (including 22 500 women).
Implementing Partners:	Local and international NGOs.
Project Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds Requested:	USD 4 587 000.

Strengthen the capacity of the IASC Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster to effectively coordinate humanitarian emergencies in Somalia

Objectives:	To strengthen links and coordination among humanitarian stakeholders and emerging Somali authorities to improve emergency response efforts.
Activities:	Establish cluster support offices across Somalia and recruit appropriate cluster support staff; facilitate regular consultations with humanitarian agencies and emerging local authorities; mainstream gender issues into cluster programming; conduct cluster needs assessments on planning, coordinating and monitoring humanitarian response efforts; bolster the capacities of cluster members at field level; organize cluster coordination meetings; and evaluate the progress of the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster.
Beneficiaries:	Cluster members, humanitarian stakeholders and food insecure populations.
Implementing Partners:	Cluster members, international and national consultants, UN agencies, local and international NGOs and emerging Somali institutions.
Project Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds Requested:	USD 1 650 000.