



Approximately 75 percent of the population depends on agriculture/livestock for their livelihood.

KENYA

Background

Nearly 1.2 million people in Kenya are considered to be highly food insecure, according to the 2010 Long Rains Assessment. Approximately 75 percent of the population depends on agriculture-/livestock-based livelihoods, many of whom are unable to meet their daily food requirements despite the enhanced rains received in early to mid-2010. In the marginal agricultural areas, an estimated 1.5 million hectares are currently under maize cultivation, a 20 percent increment over the five-year average. This could result in 2.62 million tonne harvests, just over 5 percent higher than the five-year average. The long rainy season is important, as it contributes up to 85 percent to overall annual national maize output.

Pastoralists, who occupy 80 percent of Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), are recovering from the 2009 drought. Livestock prices in the ASALs increased by 63 and 34 percent for cattle and goats, respectively, between June 2009 and June 2010. This represents a 22 percent rise in price against the five-year average. Although food prices remain high in terms of trade, livestock prices have comparatively improved. It is now possible to purchase an average of 51 kg of maize for the price of one goat (compared to just 30 kg of maize at the same time in 2009).

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

The drought in the pastoral areas has had a negative impact on pasture and water availability and led to the loss of livestock. This has affected the livelihoods of farming households, which have become destitute and were forced to take up other occupations, and in some cases led to increased resource-based conflict and related displacements. Residual problems caused by the drought remain as a result of the vast numbers of livestock lost, meaning that many pastoralists are unable to benefit from the improved livestock prices and the livestock/crop terms of trade.

In the marginal agricultural areas, prolonged droughts have resulted in low agricultural production for several years. Apart from the drought, post-harvest handling of grains is another issue affecting food security in Kenya. An estimated 200 000 tonnes of the short rainy season crop harvested from these drought-prone areas have been declared unfit for human consumption due to molding, aflatoxin contamination and infestation by insect pests. Post-harvest losses are a major contributor to food insecurity, poor health and erosion of market advantage.

At the same time, there is a strong likelihood of further drought from the impending *La Niña* phenomenon, which is expected to intensify competition for resources.

FAO response

The needs of food-insecure populations in ASALs can only be met through assistance in the agriculture and livestock sector. The provision of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertilizers and technical expertise) is essential. Farming practices such as the use of drought-tolerant crops and storage practices to reduce post-harvest losses and irrigation schemes, as well as the development of functioning markets are all key contributors to not only short-term interventions but also for long-term solutions. Water, sanitation and hygiene are also key components to achieving nutritional outcomes.

During the long rainy season of 2010, FAO supported the Government's initiatives to increase crop production by providing over 10 000 vulnerable households from Eastern and Central Provinces of Kenya with seeds and fertilizers valued at over USD 380 000 through the input fair approach. In response to the livestock problems caused by the recent drought, the FAO Representation in Kenya is working with the Government and other stakeholders to ensure that livestock keepers are able to recover as quickly as possible through the provision of livestock in the worst-affected areas, as well as through support to livestock markets, which is intended to ensure that the livestock market is functioning well into future dry seasons. This is complemented by work on drought preparedness through the promotion of animal feed production, use of alternative feed, livelihood diversification and control of animal diseases.

Furthermore, FAO is assisting the Government in designing and establishing a strategic plan for the most vulnerable areas of Kenya. This will consist of a number of key components, such as the implementation of early response system, innovative post-harvest management techniques and incorporation of disaster risk reduction initiatives in development planning and humanitarian response.



PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding requested: USD 7 226 400

Coordination of Agriculture and Livestock Sector humanitarian food security and livelihood interventions

Objectives:	To increase agricultural productivity and production by reinforcing the capacity of the most vulnerable men and women in pastoral, agropastoral and marginal agricultural areas to prepare for, prevent, mitigate against and respond effectively to the impact of climate change and related disasters.
Activities:	Protect and rebuild livestock assets (disease control, feed provision and water use management); support crop production activities including seed provision and promotion of improved technologies for post-harvest handling; support activities that improve community resilience, such as water harvesting, soil and water conservation; and support early warning and food security information.
Beneficiaries:	1 600 000 people (including 500 000 women and 700 000 children).
Implementing partners:	The Government, NGOs, CBOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 6 300 000.

Enhanced food security through improved post-harvest handling and storage by vulnerable households in the marginal agricultural areas of Kenya

Objectives:	To strengthen the food security of vulnerable women, men and children in marginal agricultural areas of eastern Kenya through the use of improved storage technologies.
Activities:	Build capacity in the required technical skills through sensitization campaigns aimed at reducing the effects of aflatoxin and insect pest damage; training of NGO, Government staff and farmers on post-harvest handling, as well as innovative crop protection initiatives such as integrated pest management (IPM); and support to vulnerable households (men and women) including provision of improved storage facilities.
Beneficiaries:	10 000 people (including 5 000 children and 4 000 women).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, CBOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 926 400.