



MARHABA

Welcome to FAO Sudan's May newsletter. This edition focuses on the results of a new household food security resilience study commissioned by FAO's SIFSIA project, and our work in Darfur helping vulnerable IDP camp residents look after their goats and donkeys, amongst other topics. Despite the prevailing difficult situation, it is worth mentioning that we are beginning to implement a new \$US 1.5 million project in South Kordofan and Blue Nile in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency to help IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable groups strengthen their food and nutrition security. Our field offices across Sudan are also supervising farmers' preparations for the coming planting season. You will find in this newsletter other areas of interest in respect of FAO activities in the country as well. Enjoy reading.

Mai Moussa Abari
FAOR Sudan

FSL UPDATE

This month's Food Security and Livelihoods Sector Khartoum meeting was held at WFP, and was attended by relevant UN agencies, international and national Non-Government Organizations and representatives from the Government of Sudan. FAO's Jimmy Owani chaired the meeting and gave an update on a teleconference with the Global



**INSIDE: READ ABOUT FAO'S
WORK AT ABU SHOUK IDP
CAMP IN NORTH DARFUR**

Food Security Cluster (GFSC) during which issues about Sudan's FSL cluster coordination were raised. Mr Owani said the GFSC confirmed that a dedicated FSL cluster coordinator for Sudan would be recruited for a period of approximately 2 months, beginning in July. The GFSC also indicated that it is considering instigating a standard food security and livelihoods assessment tool(s) and guidelines that will ease the comparison of information across states, organizations and regions.

April Pham, the IASC GenCap Gender Advisor, then presented the findings of a gender monitoring mission in South Darfur. The mission visited three IDP camps (Otash, Al Salam and Derage) and found that Gender Based Violence and a lack of income-generating activities are still major problems for women. The mission also found that poverty and a lack of income are

still contributing to the practice of early marriage. Ms Pham told the meeting that women in the camps said they would still marry their daughters at a young age if they received a good offer. The mission's recommendations include creating more livelihood and income generating activities that target both men and women.

The next FSL cluster coordination meeting takes place on Wednesday 20th June at FAO's Khartoum office.

REBUILDING NORTH DARFUR'S WATER RESOURCES

The rehabilitation of a hafir near the village of Firaish, south of El Fashir, has been completed in time for the start of the rainy season. The hafir is one of three being rehabilitated under an FAO project funded by the United States' Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and implemented in partnership with the local NGO Fashir Rural Development Network (FRDN). The other hafirs are in Um Iuyona in El Fashir locality and Hilat Abdu Elrahim (Abu Gira) in Mallit locality. The Firaish hafir will hold 22,000 cubic meters of drinking water for animals belonging to vulnerable villagers and agro-pastoralists in the area. The water will last for approximately seven months after the end of the rainy season. The hafir has inlet and outlet channels and a fence will be built around the water to protect the embankment and stop animals

polluting the supply. The villagers who are digging the hafir are participants of a World Food Programme Food for Recovery project.

FRDN chairman Mr Adam Sabil Adam says animal-owners will pay a small fee to access the water. The money will be used to maintain the hafir for many years. "It will be sustainable," he says. A new community management committee will receive the money. They've been trained in hafir sustainability including maintenance such as clearing silt build-up every two years.

TRUST FUND FOR FOOD SECURITY

Member countries participating in FAO's 31st Regional Conference for the Near East have unanimously adopted a declaration to set up a trust fund for agricultural development and food security in the region. Sudan is one of the Member Countries covered by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East. The fund is similar to one proposed at FAO's Regional Conference for Africa, held last month in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo. The trust funds would raise resources to fight hunger and would also allow for the scaling up of successful activities to prevent and respond to food and agriculture crises.

FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva said it was important that countries commit to additional funding. "FAO's focus in the region is to assist Member Countries in building resilient agricultural, pastoralist



VILLAGERS DIGGING THE FIRAISH HAFIR

and food systems. To do so we need to increase investments in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable production methods, link productive support with safety nets to boost local markets, as well as to improve the governance of water and other natural resources," he said.

HISTORIC LAND TENURE AGREEMENT

The Committee on World Food Security has endorsed the first global guidelines aimed at helping governments safeguard the rights of people to own or access land, forests and fisheries. The Committee on World Food Security is made up of governments, UN agencies, agricultural research centers, financial institutions, private sector groups and philanthropic foundations. The guidelines are based on a consultation process started by FAO in 2009. FAO is now developing a series of technical handbooks designed to help countries adapt the guidelines to their local context.

NEW STUDY ON SUDAN'S RESILIENCE TO FOOD INSECURITY

A new FAO study of Sudan's household resilience to food insecurity has found that Darfur and Kordofan are the least resilient regions. The analysis is based on results from the 2009 National Baseline Household Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics with support from FAO's SIFSIA (Sudan Integrated Food Security Information for Action) project. The study's results are divided into six geographic regions determined by the National Bureau of Statistics data: Northern, Eastern, Khartoum, Central, Kordofan and Darfur.

Households in Khartoum are the most resilient. Minor differences were found in the overall resilience of female-headed households compared to male-headed households. However, women were found to be more efficient in allocating budget for food consumption. The study

recommends promoting income-generating activities as the most important policy instrument in the effort to improve household resilience to food insecurity. If you would like a copy of the report, email FAO Sudan's Communications Officer Zoie.Jones@fao.org

PLANNING FOR AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

FAO Sudan has led a stakeholders' workshop on the development of regional priorities for the IGAD sub-region under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Established by the African Union, CAADP aims to help African countries become more agriculturally productive. The workshop participants compared the region's priorities with Sudan's national priorities, and it was emphasized by the participants that Sudan should expedite preparation of its national CAADP.

SPCRP UPDATE

The 15th Project Steering Committee of the Sudan Productive Capacity Recovery Programme (SPCRP) took place this month. The PSC approved the Budget Revision submitted by SPCRP-CB (Capacity Building), and expressed satisfaction at the progress of implementing the 2012 Annual Work Plan. The SPCRP is implemented by FAO and funded by the European Commission.

FAO FEATURE

A team from FAO Sudan visited the Abu Shouk IDP camp in North Darfur and met residents who want to return to their villages of origin.
Zoie Jones reports.

EL FASHIR: The first person to arrive at the morning's vet clinic is Khamisa Ahmed al-Noor (pictured) with her small herd of goats. She's been living at the Abu Shouk camp for Internally Displaced Persons in North Darfur for three years, and has fended for herself since her husband died 15 years ago. At 50, Khamisa is caring for seven grandchildren. She feeds goat milk to the youngest, but she says she's worried. "The goats are weak and aren't making enough milk". The animals are her only assets so she's brought them to get wormed at the Food and Agriculture Organization's veterinary clinic, funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Office and staffed by vets from one of FAO's national implementing partners Charity Veterinary Volunteers Association (CVA). Other women and children are here too, facing the same problems as Khamisa. Buying animal feed is expensive at the El Fashir market because a prolonged dry spell has made fodder scarce. Many IDPs also feel it's too dangerous to leave the camp to find fodder outside. Khamisa buys her fodder with some of the 10 Sudanese Pounds (approximately 2 - 3 US dollars) a day she earns making bricks. The rest of Khamisa's money is spent on food for her family, and there



is nothing left over to spend on vet care for her goats, so today she's smiling at the free veterinary clinic.

A short drive away at al-Salaam IDP camp, Faiza Adam is surrounded by women, children, donkeys and goats. She's 27 and a mother of two. She came to al-Salaam in 2003 in one of the first waves of people fleeing village violence and in 2005 she was trained as a Community Animal Health Worker under one of FAO's Common Humanitarian Fund projects. Today she's busy moving from animal to animal, de-worming them before the rainy season. Faiza was paid 250SDG a month by CVA, but the money stopped coming in January. CVA told her they didn't have any more funds from the international donor community. Now she volunteers her time. To counter this problem, FAO is planning to set up revolving drug funds where Community Animal Health Workers like Faiza charge a small amount for their services which covers the cost of the drugs and their labor.

54,000 people are officially recorded as living at Abu Shouk

camp. A small group of them, men in white *jalabiya* robes and turbans, sit in the shade on a woven mat inside the vet clinic's small compound. They have little hope of ever returning to their villages. When asked about returning one of the men shakes his head for a long time then finally says, "The reasons why we came here are still there." He means his land is still occupied. The men say they don't know of any permanent returns from Abu Shouk camp back to the villages. Some of the people at Abu Shouk whose original village is nearby do return for brief periods during the planting season to cultivate crops. FAO supports these farmers by providing them with the basic equipment needed to start over. But the seasonal returnees are taking a risk. One of the men tells the story of a seasonal returnee who sowed sesame outside the camp, but when he came to harvest he found camels grazing in the field, guarded by men with guns. He didn't recoup one bag of sesame seeds. "We're waiting for Allah," one of the men says.

"We're waiting for security". The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur was signed by the Government of Sudan and the rebel Liberation and Justice Movement in July last year, and the new Darfur Regional Authority's headquarters have been established in El Fashir. Under the deal, the government has promised to encourage voluntary returns by establishing security and providing access to services.

One of the CVA vets, Dr Khadir Ismail says insecurity isn't the only thing keeping people at Abu Shouk. He says families are better off at the camp than in the villages because they have access to incomes, medicine, water, food, education and animal health services. When this is put to one of the men sitting in the shade he scoffs, saying he wants to return. "At our village we would slaughter four sheep to welcome a guest. Here we don't even have one chicken".

In 2011, for the first time since the start of the Darfur conflict, there were more verified returns of people to their places of origin

than people newly displaced by fighting. A fact that may provide a glimmer of hope that a durable peace sustained by all stakeholders will allow these men sitting in the shade, as well as Faiza and Khamisa and their families to finally return home.



ABOVE, TOP: ONE OF NORTH DARFUR'S IDP CAMP VET CLINICS.

ABOVE, BOTTOM: A GIRL WAITING FOR TREATMENT FOR HER DONKEY.

BELOW LEFT: COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKER FAIZA ADAM.

More photos of FAO's work at Abu Shouk and al-Salaam can be viewed online at:

www.flickr.com/photos/faoemergencies/sets

