



**DROUGHT
EMERGENCY**

FAO's preparedness and response to the **HORN of AFRICA DROUGHT**

2011

18 August 2011



Photo: Searching for pasture and water on the border between Kenya and Somalia (© FAO/F. Nyakairu)

The Horn of Africa is experiencing the worst food security crisis in the world today. Over 12 million people are in urgent need of life- and livelihood-saving assistance. In a matter of weeks, famine has spread across southern Somalia and has been declared in Lower Shabelle, Bakool, the agropastoral areas of Balcad and Cadale districts of Middle Shabelle, the Afgoye corridor internally displaced person (IDP) settlement and the Mogadishu IDP community. Populations in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya are also facing acute food and livelihood crises.

Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa are remarkably resilient; however, these previously strong livelihood systems, particularly in dryland areas, are being worn down by a combination of inadequate investment, service delivery and inappropriate development and governance systems that fail to take into account these livelihood systems. Today, a combination of drought, conflict and high food prices has overwhelmed households' coping strategies. Farmers and herders have exhausted their assets and are watching their animals die, their crops wilt and their children either go hungry or become increasingly dependent on food aid.

Efforts to overcome this crisis must focus on the people of the Horn of Africa and on their livelihoods. They and their national governments are on the frontline in responding to the drought and support must be provided to ensure that they are able to not only rebuild their livelihoods in the short term, but ensure that these livelihoods are sustainable and more resilient and diversified in the longer term. The following document outlines the current interventions of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in assisting governments and communities to prepare for and respond to the drought emergency. FAO's priorities for the coming months are also noted.

SOMALIA

CURRENT SITUATION

On 20 July 2011, the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU) declared a state of famine in Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions of southern Somalia. By 3 August, the prevalence of acute malnutrition and crude mortality rates had surpassed famine thresholds in the agropastoral areas of Balcad and Cadale districts of Middle Shabelle, the Afgoye corridor IDP settlement and the Mogadishu IDP community. Food access indicators in these areas surpassed the famine thresholds earlier this year. As a result, they were classified as a in a state of famine by the FSNAU and Famine Early Warning System Network. It is expected that famine will spread across all regions of southern Somalia in the coming four to six weeks and is likely to persist until December 2011. Nationwide, 3.7 million Somalis are in crisis, with 3.2 million people in need of immediate, life-saving assistance.

The total failure of the October to December 2010 rains and poor performance of the April to June 2011 rains resulted in crop failure, reduced demand for labour, pasture and water shortages, poor livestock body condition and animal mortality. The decline in cereal availability and ongoing trade restrictions have led to high local cereal prices causing livestock-to-cereal/wage-to-cereal terms of trade to deteriorate sharply, substantially reducing purchasing power in all livelihood zones.

FAO'S ONGOING AND PLANNED DROUGHT MITIGATION INTERVENTIONS

Restoring farmers' crop production capacity by distributing appropriate agricultural inputs and technical assistance in conservation agriculture

- **Immediate drought response:** pre-positioning of agricultural inputs (maize, sorghum and sesame seeds, and fertilizers) in eight regions of the south in collaboration with local implementing partners. The procurement process is ongoing and a total of 67 500 households are being targeted. Distribution is expected to start in September in time for the coming *Deyr* season (October to December) rains.
- **Recovery framework (2011-12):** input distribution and support to post-harvest handling; infrastructure rehabilitation and development; and support to markets and market information.

Livestock production

- **Immediate drought response:** safeguarding the livelihoods and remaining assets of vulnerable, small-scale herders through improved fodder production and distribution and pasture/rangeland management.
- **Immediate drought response:** emergency disease surveillance, treatment and vaccination, including positioning veterinary supplies in Gedo, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool. In collaboration with the South West Livestock Professional Association, 14 625 households with almost 600 000 animals will be assisted in Gedo, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions, and a further 165 000 animals belonging to 4 124 households along riverine areas of Hiran region between mid-August and mid-September. Veterinary teams were deployed on 18 July to treat 300 000 animals belonging to 6 000 households.
- **Immediate drought response:** slaughter de-stocking for nutrition support, post-drought re-stocking and herd recovery, and the provision of water tanks and water trucking have not yet started as no funds have been received for these planned interventions.
- **Recovery framework (2011-12):** animal health service provision; support to livestock trade and marketing; capacity development of relevant institutions and policy-makers on livestock production.

Cash-for-work

Immediate drought response: cash-for-work activities to rehabilitate productive infrastructure and put cash at the disposal of those most urgently in need. Over 28 000 households are receiving and to receive assistance (ongoing and in planning stages) in eight regions of the south. The table below provides an overview of the cash-for-work programme.

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| Region | Number of households | Number of people | Amount of cash transferred monthly (USD) | Duration of support | Start date | End date |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|--|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| Lower Shabelle | 6 500 | 39 000 | 72 | 1 month | 23 July | 24 August |
| Lower Shabelle | 7 000 | 42 000 | 72 | 2 months | 7 August | 2 October |
| Lower Juba | 7 000 | 42 000 | 72 | 2 months | 7 August | 2 October |
| Lower Juba | 944 | 5 664 | 72 | 1 month | 13 August | 13 September |
| Middle Juba | 714 | 4 284 | 72 | 1 month | 13 August | 13 September |
| Bay | 1 526 | 9 156 | 72 | 1 month | 13 August | 13 September |
| Hiran | 1 468 | 8 808 | 72 | 1 month | 13 August | 13 September |
| Bakool | 1 468 | 8 808 | 72 | 1 month | 13 August | 13 September |
| Lower Shabelle | 1 658 | 9 948 | 72 | 1 month | 13 August | 13 September |
| Total | 28 278 | 169 668 | | 11 months | | |

Information systems and early warning

- **Immediate drought response:** the FSNAU continues to monitor the crisis, and an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) post-*gu* season analysis is taking place this month (August).
- **Recovery framework (2011-12):** continued support will be provided to the FSNAU, IPC, and Somalia Water and Land Information Management.

FAO PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

FAO's priorities in responding to the drought crisis include:

- restoring crop production by increasing access to agricultural inputs for 125 000 households in time for the coming October planting and main cropping season in spring 2012;
- safeguarding the remaining livelihood assets of vulnerable, small-scale herders by providing animal feed to avert the starvation and distress sale of livestock, and provide emergency treatment and vaccination for 4 million animals and disease surveillance/rapid intervention to prevent drought-related diseases and safeguard exports from the Horn of Africa, particularly to the Gulf States; and
- putting cash at the disposal of 130 000 households, enabling them to buy food, through cash-for-work activities that also build livelihood resilience by rehabilitating productive infrastructure.

ETHIOPIA

CURRENT SITUATION

Prolonged *La Niña* conditions have hit consecutive rainy seasons, causing a deterioration in food security in lowland areas of Ethiopia. Adverse weather conditions disrupted planting, limited the area planted and negatively affected the performance of *belg* and long-cycle *meher* crops. At the same time, pasture shortages during the first half of 2011 in the south and southeast led to weakened livestock body condition, low livestock productivity and elevated livestock mortality.

FAO'S ONGOING INTERVENTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT

Response

- FAO is playing an important role in improving access to water points in the drought-affected parts of Borena and Guji zones. Twelve water points have already been identified with full community participation and materials have been received on site to begin the work.
- FAO is providing veterinary medicines to drought-affected livestock in Oromiya, Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) Regions through the regional authorities and private veterinary pharmacies. Veterinary drugs have been received and distributed to the relevant authorities and Letters of Agreement are being prepared for signature by local authorities and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). Almost 20 000 animals in SNNP Region have been treated against disease, which has reduced livestock mortality and improved animal health. These figures will increase as treatments continue in Oromiya and Somali regions.
- FAO is helping pastoralists to keep core breeding livestock through the distribution of livestock feed in Dugda-Dawa, Bule-Hora, Gelana and Melka Soda districts of Borena zone. As a result of the distribution of specially manufactured feed blocks or multinutrient blocks – a process that FAO Ethiopia helped develop in collaboration with the livestock industry – 6 000 cattle breeding stock are currently recovering from the impacts of drought and pasture shortages. In order for this intervention to be sustained in the longer term, FAO has trained 60 households and 20 development agents in the efficient use of feed resources.
- Where livestock are unlikely to survive the drought, they can be slaughtered and the meat distributed in support of nutrition programmes. FAO has already slaughtered 3 220 animals, benefiting 7 130 households in Oromiya and Somali Regions and improving their income and nutrition status.

Longer-term investment

FAO has a long history of providing support to the Government of Ethiopia. In the last five years, FAO's programmes total USD 42 million in disaster risk management (DRM) alone. FAO's Investment Centre has also provided assistance to Ethiopia, which has led to the approval of 35 investment projects for a total of over USD 1.6 billion by FAO's financing partners. In 2010, with support from the Spanish Trust Fund, a mission from the Investment Centre participated in the formulation of the Ethiopian CAADP National Agriculture Investment Plan and subsequently of a Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme funding proposal, which was then approved for a total of USD 51.5 million. This will finance the expansion of the Agriculture Growth Programme, which was also developed with FAO's assistance.

FAO'S PRIORITIES FOR ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT

FAO is involved in both meeting short-term needs as a result of the crisis and providing strategic support to the Government in addressing the underlying issues that have contributed to the emergency. FAO's assistance therefore includes the following:

- **Emergency phase (July to November):** support to mobile livestock keepers or pastoralists, including a mixture of Sphere-endorsed actions, i.e. livestock feed supplementation, animal health, water resource development and, when animals cannot be saved, humane slaughter to support child nutrition interventions. In smallholder farming areas, FAO is promoting cash-for-work schemes to maintain household purchasing power to overcome rising cereal prices and distributing fast growing, high yielding, nutritious root and tuber crops and other drought-tolerant seeds that can be produced in home gardens.

- **Recovery phase (December and beyond to 2015):** support to livestock keepers or pastoralists includes assistance to herd rebuilding through animal health and rangeland management to arrest or reverse degradation and increase the availability and quality of pasture. In addition, FAO will help those pastoralists that are unwilling to return to livestock keeping to move into other livelihoods through diversification and alternative income-generating activities. In the smallholder farming areas, FAO will help improve the management of watersheds, promote reforestation to increase tree cover, conservation agriculture and improve farmers' access to drought-tolerant seeds and planting materials.

KENYA

CURRENT SITUATION

The 2011 long rains ended poorly in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) of Kenya, culminating the second or third consecutive poor or failed season in most parts of the rangelands and cropping lowlands. Pastoral, agropastoral and marginal agricultural lands are in a state of crisis following these successive rain failures. In addition, much of the population in the affected area is still recovering from the impact of the 2009 drought on their livelihoods. Pastures are depleted and livestock water is increasingly scarce, contributing to poor livestock body condition and rising mortality. An exceptionally poor July crop harvest has reduced the availability of food and contributed to high levels of food insecurity.

FAO'S ONGOING INTERVENTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT

Preparedness

Food security information systems

Ongoing FAO interventions have included:

- conducting the long rains assessments in all ASAL districts with the Government and the World Food Programme (WFP), leading to a seasonal assessment report and update of the IPC map, predicting the severity of the drought and supporting alerts and calls for increased funding;
- participating in the mid-season assessment in North Eastern Province and northern Rift Valley Province with the Government and WFP, leading to an assessment report and update of the IPC map; and
- coordination and information sharing on all ASAL districts with all Agriculture and Livestock Sector partners, and providing monthly updates of who is doing what, where maps, which have improved the identification of gap areas and targeting of resources.

Other preparedness activities

- Master training for pastoral field schools (PFS) in Lodwar, Turkana Central district in collaboration with the Government, NGOs and the private sector. Twenty people were trained, and 150 people are participating in PFS groups. This has improved their ability to research alternative livelihood options in the event of a drought and their capacity to save and invest money – contributing to an increased willingness to sell animals.
- Fodder production in Garissa, Turkana and Mandera with the Government and NGOs. To-date, 1 200 households are producing fodder and earning USD 6 700/year/ha. This has contributed to the greater availability of fodder for beneficiary households, as well as in the market for pastoral households.
- Improved livestock disease reporting in all ASAL districts in collaboration with the Government: 1 320 zero reports and 597 disease reports have been received since May, which has improved the targeting of vaccination and treatment campaigns.
- Early warning information collection and dissemination in Mumoni, Tseikuru, Mwingi and Kyuso with the Ministry of Agriculture and local NGOs has contributed to improved preparedness.

Response

Maintaining the livelihoods of pastoral communities through support to off-take, feed, water and animal health

- Protecting community assets, mainly livestock, through mass treatments, de-worming and vaccinations in East Pokot, Garissa, Marsabit, Isiolo, Mandera, Mwingi and Tana River in collaboration with national and international NGOs. For some, inputs have already been procured and delivered to the project sites, and will benefit a planned 40 000 households. In other areas, Letters of Agreement are under preparation for collaboration with partners. In these areas, 80 000 households are being targeted for assistance. In all areas, the activities will be carried out before the October rains for treatment and after the rains for vaccination.
- Livestock off-take and slaughter de-stocking in Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Mwingi and Tana River: Letters of Agreement are being prepared with local and international NGO partners. A total of 5 000 households are being targeted for immediate action, which will inject cash into the household economy and protect livelihood assets.

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- Rebuilding of community assets through livestock fairs and re-stocking of affected households with chickens: this activity is planned for October, at the onset of the rains and will benefit some 20 000 households. To-date, the inputs have been delivered to some project sites in Kitui and Makueni, while Letters of Agreement are being signed with local and international partners for the provision of inputs at other sites in Kitui and Makueni.
- Feed provision for animals left behind for the purpose of providing milk in Mandera, Marsabit, Mwingi, and Tana River in collaboration with local and international NGOs: Letters of Agreement are being signed with partners and the activities will commence immediately, targeting 4 000 households in order to protect their livelihood assets.
- The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) is being rolled out to all districts and trainers have been identified. This will improve the quality of drought response programming.

Cash- and voucher-for work activities

- Cash-for-work activities are being implemented in Kitui, Makueni, Mandera, Tharaka and Turkana in collaboration with local community-based organizations (CBOs) and authorities. A total of 5 000 households are being targeted for immediate support. In Kitui and Makueni, the inputs have been procured and delivered to the project sites. In the other areas, Letters of Agreement are being prepared for partners. These activities are simultaneously injecting cash into communities and improving their capacity for recovery.
- Voucher-for-work activities are being carried out in Mumoni, Tseikuru, Mwingi and Kyuso, targeting 6 000 households and contributing to the conservation of over 800 hectares and construction of 12 sand dams. This will improve the availability of cash at the household level and improve their ability to harvest crops in the next season.

Restoring the crop production capacity of farmers through the distribution of appropriate agricultural inputs and technical assistance for conservation agriculture

- Seed provision to improve recovery of livelihoods in Kitui, Kyuso, Makueni, Mbeere, Mumoni, Tharaka, Garissa, Baringo, Turkana and Marakwet: this activity is targeting 7 250 households. Activities are ongoing, with inputs procured and delivered in some areas and Letters of Agreement being signed in others.
- Seed distribution through seed fairs in Mumoni, Tseikuru, Mwingi and Kyuso – 60 tonnes of drought-tolerant seeds have been distributed through seed fairs to 6 000 households, improving their capacity for recovery.
- Capacity building of farming households and communities in Mbeere, Makueni, Garissa, Baringo, Turkana, Marakwet, Mumoni, Tseikuru, Mwingi and Kyuso: 10 000 households are benefiting from training on crop production.
- Rehabilitation of small-scale community-based irrigation schemes is benefiting 3 000 households in Garissa, Baringo, Turkana and Marakwet.

Longer-term investment

FAO's Investment Centre support to Kenya has contributed to the approval of 27 projects for a total of over USD 1.1 billion. Many projects have assisted agricultural and rural development, and livestock, fisheries, forestry and natural resources management. Other work has included the preparation of an agricultural policy review. FAO's Investment Centre has participated in WFP's process to develop the country's 2006-09 medium-term strategic food security plan and a technical review of the Medium-Term Investment Plan for the Agricultural Sector Development, elaborated by the Government within the CAADP framework.

FAO'S PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Livestock support: de-stocking for food and commercial off-take; supporting slaughter de-stocking if necessary; transporting water to key dry season grazing areas; supporting disease surveillance in drought-affected areas; and undertaking animal health activities such as de-worming, and multivitamin injections to improve immunity and strengthen animals' resilience.
- Crop production: implementing voucher/cash-for-work activities to meet immediate needs and improve communities' resilience; support water harvesting, soil and water conservation, promoting small-scale irrigation through farmer field schools (FFS); and distributing farming inputs in time for the October to November short rains.

DJIBOUTI

CURRENT SITUATION

Two consecutive failed rainy seasons have affected the northwest and southeastern border areas of Djibouti. At the same time, a rise in staple commodity prices has led to a sharp increase in the number of food insecure households. Livestock production remains the main source of food and income for rural, drought-affected households in the country and has been hit by water and pasture shortages, which threaten their lives and livelihoods in the immediate and longer terms.

FAO'S ONGOING INTERVENTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT

Preparedness

Strengthening resilience

Some of the main activities currently being undertaken by FAO in Djibouti in response to the ongoing drought include:

- construction of five underground water tanks with a capacity of 100 m³ in Arta and Tadjourah;
- procurement and distribution of 3 250 goats for beneficiaries in Dikhil, Obock and Arta;
- support to the rehabilitation of home gardens, through the distribution of agricultural tools and planting materials;
- supporting the Ministry of Agriculture's nursery with 500 selected fruit trees provided as stock material for further multiplication;
- carrying out a mission to assess the impact of the drought (2 to 5 August) in collaboration with the Government;
- providing logistical support to the government for veterinary interventions;
- development and validation of technical specifications for the procurement of donkeys; and
- identification of sites for the rehabilitation of 150 wells in collaboration with the Ministry of Water.

Food security information systems

In collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization, FAO has been contributing to coordinated and informed disaster risk reduction/management (DRR/M) interventions for agropastoral communities in six regions of Djibouti. The main outputs have included:

- raising the awareness of decision-makers on DRR/M;
- organizing training workshops on DRR and the IPC;
- strengthening human resources capacity;
- providing logistical support (for managing the DRR Web site and database, motorbikes for information collection on food security and water points); and
- identifying food security and nutrition partners.

Longer-term investment

FAO is currently helping the Government to develop a CAADP country compact and will then assist with the development of a National Agriculture Investment Plan. Recent investment support to the country has assisted the fight against avian influenza and supported rural community development and water mobilization, as well as food security interventions.

FAO'S PRIORITIES FOR ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE DROUGHT

- Agricultural production: construction of household fodder storage facilities; supporting the production of animal feed; promoting poultry production; diversifying agricultural production through drip irrigation; and rehabilitation of small gardens for fodder and food production.
- Increasing the quantity and quality of water by rehabilitating water points, including surface water catchment facilities, underground cisterns and innovative water supply strategies through subsurface dams.
- Strengthening the IPC in the context of DRR/M, including monitoring food prices, collecting and analysing information on water points, mapping (and analysing) livestock migration, and issuing timely alerts based on IPC indicators.
- Maintaining livestock assets and protecting export routes by supporting veterinary campaigns, providing veterinary inputs to protect animal health and prevent the spread of diseases, and strengthening regional veterinary clinical diagnosis capacities.

REGIONAL

FAO'S ONGOING INTERVENTIONS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Preparedness

At the regional level, FAO has been working to improve preparedness for food security crises, with a focus on drought preparedness. In this regard, activities have included capacity development to improve the effectiveness of interventions, coordination of interventions to avoid overlaps, documentation of lessons learned, providing information on technical issues, standards and guidelines for drought interventions, and mapping of partners' interventions and technical infrastructure, such as water points. The activities are outlined in more detail below.

1. Training and capacity development of FAO and other stakeholders in DRR/M in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.
2. Development of the Web site www.disasterriskreduction.net for the coordination of interventions and information sharing.
3. Collecting critical lessons learned and best practices in drought preparedness.
4. Training of trainers for farmer and pastoral field schools for drought preparedness (two regional master training activities are ongoing – with 45 candidates – and more than 60 field schools are being supported).
5. Training and support on:
 - digital technologies for mapping water points and early warning systems (Dadaab and Turkana in Kenya, and Karamoja in Uganda);
 - digital technologies for natural resource mapping (Mandera, Kenya);
 - Livestock Emergency Standards and Guidelines (LEGS) in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda;
 - integrated watershed management (national workshop in Karamoja, Uganda);
 - sustainable rural water systems (training of trainers, Kenya);
 - community-managed DRR training in Uganda; and
 - water scheme maintenance and rehabilitation in Moyale, Ethiopia.
6. Preparation of technical documents: guidelines for water trucking (Kenya), code of conduct for NGOs (Kenya), curriculum for pastoral field schools, functionality of veterinary drug shops and supplies (mapping done in Karamoja, Uganda), and others.
7. Technical support to country offices in the region.
8. Creation of a multistakeholder partnership around dryland farming and the development of a solid roadmap on the way forward to mitigate drought.
9. Regional refresher training for 18 master trainers for Kenya and Uganda – better integration of HIV and gender in the farmer/pastoral field schools.

Food security and nutrition information

FAO continues to coordinate the regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) platform and its subgroups (Market Analysis Subgroup [MAS], Drylands, Nutrition, IPC). FAO's Subregional Emergency Office for Eastern and Central Africa co-chairs the FSNWG with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. This includes organizing monthly coordination meetings, producing monthly updates, and sharing information. A total of 15 FSNWG and Subgroup meetings have been held since November 2010, eight of the FSNWG, four of the MAS, and three of the *La Niña* Task Force. The FSNWG has contributed to informed and effective multistakeholder food security and nutrition coordination of emergency response and recovery over the drought cycle in the affected countries of the Horn of Africa. This has involved:

- providing technical and secretariat support for the FSNWG platform, ensuring informed action and sharing best practices to improve coordination, programme quality and impact;
- facilitating and supporting the production of regional consensus-based food security and nutrition updates, which are available online and disseminated to partners – since November 2010, the following alerts and updates have been issued:
 - two FSNWG *La Niña* alerts (in November 2010 and January 2011);
 - six FSNWG updates between November 2010 and July 2011, as well as one in October 2010;
 - two Famine Early Warning System Network East African Food Security Alerts (in March and June 2011);
 - five United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) East African Drought Humanitarian Reports (one each in March, April and June 2011, and two in July 2011); and
 - two UNOCHA East African Drought Humanitarian Snapshots (November 2010 and July 2011);
- timely dissemination of relevant food security and nutrition information (early warning, food security situation and outlook, advocacy messages, prioritized response guidelines), contributing to improved action for both emergency and early recovery phases, and advocating to focus on resilience building for vulnerable populations throughout the response cycle;
- monitoring of Transboundary plant and livestock diseases; and
- response analysis.

The FSNWG subgroups include:

- i. the IPC Steering Committee, which coordinates IPC activities in the region;
- ii. the MAS, which coordinates regional internal and cross-border market analysis;
- iii. the *La Niña* Task Force, which identifies past effective response interventions and livelihoods resilience building/ mitigation of best practices; creates a forum for the exchange of drought-response tracking; and provides technical support on prioritized tools for food security national clusters and platforms in the region; and
- iv. the Agriculture, Livestock and Nutrition Subgroups, which specifically address technical issues.

Response

Ongoing and recent FAO activities include:

- providing surge capacity for the drought response;
- assessment and visibility missions on the impact of the drought in Dadaab and Garissa – mission reports, a video, and photo documentaries are being developed as a better understanding of the drought situation and its impact will lead to an informed response;
- supporting regional coordination of the drought response – developing a drought response and recovery road map and leading to an improved understanding of regional dynamics of the drought situation and response;
- within the FSNWG, the following response actions have been initiated and discussed in the Regional Humanitarian Partners Team forums to guide regional response planning and actions under the Food Security Cluster:
 - i. MAS subgroup launched the online, cross-border trade analysis tool, which is vital for informing cross-border trade flows of different food commodities in the region in order to understand the international food flows, market prices and information trade activities within drought-affected areas; and

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- ii. the use of cash transfer interventions in emergency response – overview of planned and ongoing cash transfer interventions in the drought context, good practices and lessons learned, and market analysis for cash programme feasibility;
- communication and coordination of information between FAO country offices and headquarters, as well as with other agencies, increasing awareness of needs and response to the crisis;
- Special Interagency Working Group on HIV and gender-based violence (GBV) meeting on the drought – fact sheets on HIV, GBV and drought were developed – this will contribute to a better awareness and coordination of HIV and GBV issues in the response; and
- guidance on gender and food security and nutrition issues. Check lists have been developed and shared to strengthen capacity for the integration of gender into food security and nutrition activities.

FAO'S PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

FAO's planned activities will involve:

- supporting the regional FSNWG, other platforms at the regional and country levels and the the La Niña Task Force, which have played a vital role in highlighting and monitoring the current food crisis in the Horn of Africa, along with formulating and driving coherent responses to the drought;
- facilitating and supporting the identification, prioritization, advocacy and dissemination of regional cross-sectoral response guidance and guidelines;
- strengthening, supporting and expanding the IPC tool;
- improving coordination with WFP, IGAD and the African Union for enhanced humanitarian response and with the International Fund for Agricultural Development for longer-term risk management;
- ensuring regional coordination activities are conducted in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Plan of Action for the Horn of Africa, which advocates for enhanced support to country-led processes that aim to address chronic hunger and malnutrition, build resilience of vulnerable livelihoods and ensure early, appropriate and effective scale up of assistance in times of acute crisis;
- promoting best practices and standards in humanitarian action in all affected countries; and
- embedding response activities within longer-term recovery and development activities.

FAO'S EFFORTS TO MITIGATE FOOD INSECURITY IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

SOUTH SUDAN

CURRENT SITUATION

Global acute malnutrition remains above emergency thresholds in many parts of South Sudan. Continued food insecurity is linked to conflict, population displacement, low levels of food production, and rising food prices.

The current progress of the rains is of concern as erratic rainfall and dry spells have been reported in some states. If the current rainfall pattern continues, the production of staples (maize and sorghum) will be negatively affected, increasing the risk of food insecurity. Pastures could be depleted, forcing herders to migrate in search of water and pasture.

The effects of the drought in the Horn of Africa could be felt along the border areas of Jonglei state in the form of reduced commodity flows from neighbouring countries.

PREPAREDNESS

Advocacy-related activities include:

- raising community awareness about access to water and grazing in Warrap state in collaboration with the Land Commission, Judiciary, State Directorate of Legal Affairs and CBOs;
- undertaking a print and electronic media campaign in Warrap state; and
- organizing mobilization and sensitization activities in Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Lakes, Western Bahr el-Ghazal and Western Equatoria on seed production.

Assessment and surveillance interventions include:

- conducting a rapid and mid-season crop assessment in all states to determine the performance of crops, in collaboration with various local and international NGOs;
- carrying out post-distribution monitoring and performance evaluations of partners in Eastern Equatoria, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, and Jonglei states – data entry is ongoing;
- food security and monitoring systems are in place throughout South Sudan and data entry is ongoing;
- FAO is preparing for livestock disease situation assessments (identification, prevalence and impact on production and productivity) in Unity, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Upper Nile and Central Equatoria states;
- continued support is being provided for operation and maintaining livestock disease databases and reporting systems; and
- land and natural resources conflict assessments were completed in April in Southern Kordofan and Warrap states.

Coordination of the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster

FAO co-leads the FSL Cluster with WFP, which provides a forum for discussing successful methodologies and lessons learned, for example in mitigating the impact of drought. This involves:

- organizing monthly and bimonthly FSL coordination meetings at the state and Juba levels;
- updating, producing and disseminating reports on the FSL Cluster to facilitate information flow, coordination and networking among partners;
- capacity development of Cluster partners through training on various topics, including vulnerability assessments and targeting; data collection, analysis and reporting; and community-level planning for food security interventions;
- training on community-level planning; and
- conducting a planning and programming symposium for livestock and fisheries stakeholders.

RESPONSE

Ongoing improved production interventions include:

- conducting training for 25 local partners on beneficiary targeting criteria, project design, gender mainstreaming, project monitoring and reporting in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal states;
- procuring and distributing crop and vegetable seeds, hand tools, and micro-irrigation equipment to almost 200 000 farming households;
- distributing fishing gear to 25 000 fisher households;
- providing emergency vaccination and treatment of livestock owned by over 15 000 households;
- providing seeds and tools to 2 500 households in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria through seed fairs and the voucher system;
- training beneficiaries on agriculture, livestock and fisheries production;
- training of seed growers and seed extension agents on FFS curriculum development and as FFS facilitators;
- conducting FFS; and
- supporting basic seed multiplication, including the inspection of seed production fields, procuring and distributing inputs, clearing land and planting some seed multiplication fields, and mechanizing seed processing.

Enhancing dispute resolution capacity of traditional authorities and other relevant actors

- FAO has conducted action-oriented land use and natural resource management planning, territorial mappings, tenure and conflict assessments, community awareness and capacity development on alternative dispute resolution in the bordering states of Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap, Unity, Southern Kordofan and Abyei Area in the Sudan. To-date, the territorial mapping of cattle routes and identification of conflict hotspots has been completed.
- In addition, FAO is preparing for training in the Land and Survey Departments on tenure issues, survey and land administration and re-tooling with survey equipment.
- FAO has conducted training in mediation, arbitration and conciliation for Land Commission personnel, support and facilitate national workshop to dialogue on land policy and law development.

Innovative interventions to create concrete employment and training opportunities for the youth

- In December 2010, FAO completed training of trainers activities on the junior farmer field and life school (JFFLS) in JFFLS methodology for JFFLS facilitators and team leaders in Abyei, Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, Warrap, Eastern and Western Equatoria.
- In addition, six JFFLS have been set up to-date, reaching 180 households.
- Upon graduation, the JFFLS students will be provided with basic productive start-up assets and FAO will follow up on their progress after one year.

Reintegration of ex-combatants

FAO has also been supporting the reintegration of ex-combatants by facilitating their uptake of agriculture-based livelihoods. This has involved establishing reception centres and registering demobilized ex-combatants (DECs). To-date, almost 1 800 DECs have been sensitized about various agricultural activities in Lakes and Central Equatoria states, including field crop production, ox-plough technologies, horticulture, poultry keeping, beekeeping, fishing and goat rearing. The DECs have received over 2 000 enterprise start-up kits, and are being provided with training and agricultural extension support.

Improved access to animal health services and fisheries inputs

FAO has been contributing to improved animal health service provision and better fisheries productivity by distributing veterinary drugs and vaccines, procuring cold chain spare parts and repairing and maintaining 30 cold chain facilities, distributing fishing gear, and training fishers in net-braiding, post-harvest handling and processing.

FAO'S PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Livelihood support will continue to be provided to IDPs, returnees and female-headed households in the form of crop seeds, hand tools, support to local seed production, and promotion of vegetable production, mainly for the dry season.
- Livestock disease outbreaks will be prevented and alternative food production activities promoted by providing fishing equipment, treating livestock for common diseases, and rehabilitating cold chain facilities.
- Continued support will be provided to enhance the FSL Cluster through coordinated food security assessments, planning and programming.

THE SUDAN

CURRENT SITUATION

The situation in Southern Kordofan remains tense since the outbreak of violence in June 2011, which forced people to flee, abandoning their homes and their livelihoods. The violence started during the peak agricultural season, when crops are planted, and the lean period, when stocks are low and more people rely on humanitarian support. Commodity flows to border areas were disrupted by the conflict, as were humanitarian actions, threatening food security in the area.

Abyei is also facing a fragile food security situation as a result of a combination of population displacement, loss of livelihood assets, limited access to livestock grazing and cultivation areas and the presence of large numbers of returnees and IDPs.

The Greater Darfur region continues to face insecurity and massive population displacement, which has forced many to adopt unsustainable livelihood coping mechanisms, which threaten the natural resource base. Overall,

FAO'S ONGOING INTERVENTIONS

Crop production

- FAO has been contributing to restoring crop production capacity by providing appropriate agricultural inputs (cereal seeds, etc.) and technical assistance in conservation agriculture in the Greater Darfur region in collaboration with local and international NGOs. So far, 825 tonnes of staple crop and vegetable seeds, and almost 22 000 hand tools have been distributed to over 83 000 households. The seeds are short-maturing and drought-tolerant. Water harvesting has also helped to conserve and provide water for small-scale irrigation and livestock production.
- Similar assistance is being provided to farming households in Abyei, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, White Nile and Sinnar states in collaboration with the state Ministries of Agriculture, and local and international NGOs/CBOs. To-date, 240 tonnes of staple crop and vegetable seeds and 26 000 hand tools have been distributed to 18 000 households. The seeds distributed are of short-maturing and drought-tolerant varieties.
- In addition, 379 tonnes of crop and vegetable seeds have been distributed to almost 75 000 vulnerable households in the Transitional Areas and Eastern Sudan. The seeds distributed are of short-maturing and drought-tolerant varieties.

Livestock production

- FAO has been working with local and international NGOs to protect the livestock assets of vulnerable pastoralists and agropastoralists through the control of epidemic and endemic diseases and de-worming throughout the Greater Darfur region. To-date, almost 470 000 animals belonging to over 31 000 households have been vaccinated or treated. This has increased animals' resilience to disease and parasites in the face of the poor quality and quantity of feed and water shortages.
- In addition, support has been provided to rebuild the livestock assets of vulnerable pastoralists and agropastoralists through re-stocking (distribution of animals) in areas in which conditions are favourable in North Darfur state. To-date, 1 400 animals have been provided to 160 households. The beneficiaries have been provided with drought-tolerant livestock, such as goats and donkeys, in reasonable numbers that can easily be managed and provided with a complete package of vaccination and extension messages related to improved management practices.
- Animal health services have also been provided in the Transitional Areas and Eastern Sudan through the control of epidemic and endemic diseases and de-worming in the Transitional Areas and Eastern Sudan. Some 1.7 million animals belonging to almost 69 000 households have been vaccinated and treated between March and July 2011. The vaccinated animals have become more resilient to opportunistic diseases and the effects of scarce water and pasture.

Other

- FAO has been helping to restore and protect forest cover in West Darfur state by producing and distributing 54 000 tree seedlings in collaboration with the Forestry National Corporation and producing 500 fuel-efficient stoves, which have benefited 3 000 households. This reduces the rate of degradation of forests and restores forest cover, which influences the region's micro-climate. The overall aim is to reduce the negative impact of human activities on natural resources.
- Emergency and early recovery assistance is being provided to enhance the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable households (returnees, IDPs, host communities) in the Transitional Areas and Eastern Sudan. Two water points were constructed, benefiting 2 500 households in June and July. The intervention has mitigated the water needs of pastoralists and resident communities in the targeted states.

FAO'S PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

FAO's main planned interventions in the Sudan include support to:

- crop production: increasing access to crop and vegetable seeds, agricultural tools and animal-drawn implements, promotion of local seed production, training in improved farming practices;
- livestock and fisheries production: strengthened livestock disease surveillance, vaccination campaigns, training of community animal health workers, establishment of veterinary community centres, increased access to fishing gear, boat-building and net-braiding, training on sustainable fishing practices;
- sustainable resource management: establishing nurseries, promoting the construction and use of fuel-efficient stoves, setting up fodder banks, promoting community-based negotiation and mediation mechanisms to address natural resource management and land use; and
- coordinating the FSL Sector.

UGANDA

CURRENT SITUATION

Many parts of Uganda are food secure following good aggregate cereal production in 2010 and forecast favourable production in most of the country in 2011. However, pockets of chronic food insecurity exist, particularly in the north. An estimated 600 000 people are moderately food insecure, mainly in Karamoja and Acholi subregions.

The main threats to food security in Uganda are outbreaks of animal diseases, natural disasters, continuing challenges of post-conflict recovery. There has been some localized impact of the drought crisis in the Horn of Africa in eastern and northern Uganda with late rains delaying planting, which will likely delay harvests in September and lengthen the lean season. In addition, an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in February closed livestock markets and disrupted livelihoods in Nakarpiripirit and Amudat districts.

FAO'S ONGOING INTERVENTIONS

Preparedness

- A Karamoja regional IPC workshop was conducted with United Nations agencies, Government authorities, local authorities and NGOs. During the workshop, the IPC meta-data analysis of Karamoja was updated and capacity built on the use of the IPC in food security and nutrition situation analysis for Karamoja. In addition, a Karamoja IPC map was generated for May to September 2011 and provided some qualitative indication on the food security situation in the region to guide planning.
- Bimonthly meetings for regional drought cycle management project stakeholders in Karamoja are organized and a mechanism was put in place to harmonize ongoing community-managed DRR/M initiatives in order to inform the district contingency planning process.
- Mapping of CAHWs and veterinary supply points in Karamoja was conducted to ensure better coordination of response to livestock disease outbreaks, which escalate during the drought, in collaboration with district veterinary offices.
- District local government and NGO staff in Karamoja were trained on community-managed integrated watershed management. As a result, 32 staff are able to identify and analyse key issues affecting drought or flood mitigation, food security and natural resources management in Karamoja, explain key concepts and principles of community-managed integrated watershed management and how it strengthens DRRM efforts, drought and flood preparedness and mitigation and sustainable livelihood and food security and climate change adaptation. Action plans have been developed on how to apply and replicate integrated watershed management approaches in their own district. The knowledge and skills of district local government and NGO personnel in Karamoja have been enhanced in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating community-based integrated watershed management projects/programmes.
- District local government and NGO staff have also received training on the LEGS to ensure better coordination of response to livestock-related emergencies.

FAO'S PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

FAO's main priorities are to:

- reinforce existing activities;
- improve animal health – particularly through efforts to combat foot-and-mouth disease; and
- build communities' resilience to address the root causes of disasters and mitigate their impact.