



# HORN of AFRICA UPDATE

April 2012

## SITUATION UPDATE

The situation in the drought and conflict affected areas of the Greater Horn of Africa has generally improved since the onset of the crisis in 2011. However, an estimated 9 million people are still in need of assistance in the region. While significant gains were made in the aftermath of the crisis, the outlook for the impending/ ongoing agricultural season paints a grim picture of what lies ahead with some areas already reporting poor harvests. Recent climatic forecasts, anticipate that the March-May rainy season in the eastern Horn of Africa will perform poorly. A special report by USAID Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET, 3 April 2012) notes that rainfall is late, and will be poorly distributed over space and time and - at most - reach 60-85 percent of average. The region is still very highly dependent of rain fed agriculture and this could have dire consequences for the communities.

**Djibouti:** The food security situation in the country is poor. The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted by all food security partners in December 2011 placed about half the country under Phase II “Stress” With the other half as “Crisis”. The situation has not changed much since then, as a result of the poor start of the coastal rains. This is expected to have negative effects on pasture regeneration and replenishing of water levels, which were already at extremely low levels. The food security situation will hinge greatly on the performance of the coming *diraac/ sougoum* (March to May) rains however the poor start of rain season, along with high and rising staple food prices, is already pushing households towards higher levels of food insecurity, particularly in the northwest and southeast pastoral livelihood zones.

**Ethiopia:** Despite the late onset of the short *belg* rains (February – May), most parts of central and southern Ethiopia have now reported normal to above normal rainfall. However, the southern half of Somali, the lowlands of Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR), eastern Oromia as well as the northeastern part of Afar, have received erratic or no rain at all. Poor sweet potato (some varieties) harvest is anticipated in the root crop dependent SNNPR due to the failed *Sapie* rains (December - January). Livestock conditions are generally good with the overall vegetation cover (for browsing and grazing) looking promising. However, livestock feed and water resource are seriously declining in the northeastern parts of Afar due to the poor rains there.

**Kenya:** Recent climatic forecasts, anticipate that the March-May rainy season will perform poorly. By mid-April 2012, planting had not started in most of the regions of Rift Valley, Western Kenya and Central Kenya, where planting usually takes place by mid-March. This is likely to have significant negative impacts on crop production, pasture regeneration and replenishment of water resources. The predicted below-average rains in the March-May season will further negatively impact vulnerable pastoralists in crisis areas of northern and upper eastern Kenya.

**Somali:** The main *Gu* planting season (April to August) has started in a few places (especially in the North). According to Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), the overall main rainy season (March – May) in the eastern Horn of Africa is expected to perform poorly. This is particularly worrying because this forecast is similar to the recent driest seasons of 2000 and 2011. Livestock exports through the northern ports continue on a positive trend with the exports peaking to an all time high. The animals are in generally good physical condition.

**South Sudan:** The first rainy season (March – June) has begun in the green belt zone of South Sudan albeit later than usual. The anomaly *emodis* NDVI data (USGS-FEWSNET) for mid April 2012 shows that the development of vegetation is way below average for the entire region where the rainy season has commenced. The poor performance of general vegetation is an indication that the rangelands are also not performing as expected at this particular time of the rainy season and this may adversely affect the first season crops. Communities here have begun preparing and planting their fields. With water and pasture scarce at this time of year, animals are at their lowest state of nutrition and also more vulnerable to opportunistic diseases. Major economic and zoonotic (can be transmitted from animals to humans) livestock diseases continue to spread and are threatening over 2.7 million head of livestock.

## FAO RESPONSE

FAO has renewed its commitment to a Hunger-Free Horn of Africa, emphasizing governments' commitment, policy advocacy, and enhanced investment and up scaling of 'best practices'. On the short term, there is an urgent need to scale up resilience activities in the coming or ongoing agricultural seasons to prevent people from losing livelihoods and productive assets as well as backtracking on the gains from recent interventions. On the medium and long term, political commitment at the highest level, as well as necessary policy incentives to encourage investments from both private and public sectors into the agricultural

sector and infrastructure is necessary as well as support to programmes to promote sustainable increased production and livelihood diversification. This needs to be accompanied by institutional strengthening and capacity development.

In the recently concluded 27<sup>th</sup> FAO Conference for Africa (Brazzaville, Congo – 23 - 27 April 2012) attended by 45 States, FAO drew attention to the serious funding gaps totaling 110 million dollars to assist herders, agro-pastoralists and farmers and the overall rural communities in the ongoing rainy season in both the Sahel and Horn of Africa (50 million for HoA alone). This was noted to be having adverse effects by losing opportunities to build on recent gains, making the region prone to yet another crisis. The conference discussed FAO's new approach to fighting hunger in Africa. Key aspects included working together with partners under nationally and regionally-led actions to link emergencies to development, building up resilience of rural families and communities, scale up successful initiatives, encourage public and private investments in agriculture and food security, manage risks and strengthen local institutions. The meeting concluded with African countries reaffirming their commitment to ending hunger in the continent and defining areas FAO should focus its work on to support this goal. They include increasing productivity and market access for smallholders, reducing vulnerability to threats to food and nutrition security and improving management and governance for sustainable use of natural resources.

### Immediate response

In an attempt to increase access to water in rural pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in Djibouti, FAO is engaged in rehabilitating key wells and troughs in rural areas for both livestock and human consumption. It is also begun construction and rehabilitation of boreholes, 100 cubic meter cisterns and dams. FAO is also increasing access to underground water sources for 10 000 households in rural pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in five regions of Djibouti. In supporting the Livestock sector and mitigating the massive losses incurred by pastoralists during the height of drought crisis in 2011, FAO is cautiously initiating its restocking programme - taking into consideration the forecasted rains - by distributing 3 250 pregnant goats in Dikhil, Arta and Obock. In addition, FAO has assisted in the procuring and distribution of vaccines, medicines and micronutrients for 100 000 livestock. To help rehabilitate drought-affected agriculture production FAO is assisting with the rehabilitation of 825 micro-irrigation systems throughout the country. In addition, vegetable and fodder gardens are also being targeted for intervention.

In Ethiopia, root and tuber crops are important food crops that have gained increased importance due to their role in food security, ability to withstand drought as well as their potential for commercial processing. FAO distributed a total of 206 000 kg of improved variety of taro planting material to 2 060 vulnerable households in Oromiya and SNNPR. Following the onset of the *Belg* rains FAO distributed 324 400 high yielding and drought resistant cassava stem cuttings to 3 244 households. This was a follow up to the earlier training of 104 *woreda* (district) agents who were trained as trainers, in improved root and tuber crop production. To support the livestock sector, FAO has been involved in; animal feeding, water for livestock, animal health and capacity building programmes in Ethiopia. Taking advantage of the rain, irrigated fodder production has started in Gode and Hudet of Somali region, Liben (Oromiya), Dalifagi and Awash fentale of Afar region. At the same time, livestock emergency feeding is underway in Gewane and Dewe woredas of Afar region for 2 000 cattle belonging to 660 HHs. 180 000 doses of vaccines have been delivered to Borena zone for vaccination during restocking of goats and other small ruminates. FAO and WF have also agreed to work together on various programmes including the Purchase 4 Progress and School gardening and feeding.

Up scaling the emergency response programme to protect livelihoods that have not recovered from the drought yet is ongoing in Kenya. Currently, FAO Kenya is reaching 185 000 drought-affected households through livestock, crop production, cash-for-work and small-scale irrigation interventions. Vaccination campaigns, de-worming and multivitamin injections activities are ongoing to improve animals' immunity and resilience. At the same time, FAO has prepared a project proposal assisting 250 000 households by keeping livestock markets functioning in the areas most likely to be affected by the predicted rainfall deficit. Development of a response options analysis for both crops and livestock is complete and work with partners to prioritize activities and funding requirements until the end of the year is ongoing.

In Somalia, FAO, WFP and UNICEF have launched a Joint Resilience Strategy to guide integrated programming, blending short-term interventions with long term development programmes. A three-year resilience programme is currently being developed. FAO is also preparing a response plan for the four newly liberated areas (Gedo, Hiran, Bakool and parts of Bay) over a three-year period. Cumulatively, 129 040 households have been assisted through cash for since the project commenced. A total of 95 050 households have also received agricultural inputs and training while another 23 890 households (mainly women) will also receive vegetable seeds under the crop production component during the 2012 *Gu* season. In terms of livestock support approximately 4.6 million animals have been vaccinated in Gedo, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, South Mudug, Hiraan, Galgadud and Banadir. FAO is also providing support to small-scale herders for fodder production, water as well as restocking.

In South Sudan FAO is seeking to restore agricultural production and food access for over 1.1 million people for the 2012 agricultural season, which is just taking off. FAO will provide crop seeds and hand tools to farmers, organize seed fairs using vouchers to increase access to inputs, provide training on animal traction and good farming practices, as well as energy-saving stoves and conservation agriculture. FAO and its partners are also seeking to reach 50,000 fishing households in 2012 through the provision of adapted fishing equipment and sustainable fisheries know-how. Also through its Farmer Field School

approach, FAO is intensifying the promotion of dry season vegetable farming aimed at helping vulnerable communities including women and returnees to improve their food security, incomes and nutritional status. In addition, 26,000 farmers have received assistance in the form of training activities, the distribution of 2.6 tonnes of vegetable seeds and micro-irrigation equipment. FAO manages the entire South Sudan's cold chain network, which includes vaccines procured by FAO and the Government. In 2012, FAO is providing support to 15,000 households in 7 states - through livestock vaccinations, veterinary treatment, and training to strengthen disease surveillance.

### Investment Response

Preparation of the proposed World Bank (WB) financed regional pastoral recovery and resilience project, (RPRRP), expected to cover Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia, has experienced some delays. FAO and the WB are currently discussing the initial draft Project Concept Note (PCN). A technical workshop, to be convened by IGAD, has been proposed for the fourth week of May with country teams and representatives of Pastoral Associations to strengthen the regional dimension of the project and to further develop a common understanding on the preparation needs and expected products. Country missions are expected to take place shortly after the workshop.

FAO, as part of the Technical Consortium with the CGIAR Centers, is continuing to support IGAD and the countries in finalizing their Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs), of which initial drafts were developed in preparation of the IGAD Ministerial and High Level Development Agencies meeting held in Nairobi on 04 April. Country missions will be undertaken, starting mid May, to assist in finalizing the CPFs. In addition, FAO continues to support the preparation of the technical papers. Both the CPFs and the technical papers will be used to underpin the design of the RPLRRP and the IGAD Regional Compact. FAO also facilitated the National Programme for Food Security validation workshop in Djibouti, which effectively is the Investment Plan of the country's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The country CAADP compact was signed on 19<sup>th</sup> of April, with FAO signing on behalf of the development partners.

### Policy Response

Preparation of the Horn of Africa regional CAADP is progressing. FAO is continuing to provide technical support to IGAD and is facilitating national consultations with key stakeholders for identification, validation and consolidation of regional priorities to be included in the IGAD CAADP compact and related investment plan. FAO supported to creation of a regional team composed of six consultants who are working towards the delivery of the regional CAADP compact document and detailed roadmap and budget for the post compact activities. Country teams have been established comprising national consultants, and the CAADP and IGAD Livestock Policy Initiative (LPI) national focal points. The regional team is supporting the national team through the development of a country guide that outlines the steps that each country should follow towards the national consultation and an annotated outline of the country report that the national consultant will follow in producing the report. In May, FAO is funding and accompanying the IGAD CAADP team leader to a peer-learning visit to ECOWAS (Abuja, Nigeria), Hub Rural and IFPRI (Dakar, Senegal) to learn from ECOWAP/CAADP development. The first draft of the Regional CAADP and the companion documents are expected to be ready for signature by June.

### Capacity Development Response

FAO is collaborating with national governments and other development partners to enhance the overall competitiveness of the agriculture sector through support to capacity development and institutional strengthening. In particular, FAO is undertaking activities to: promote improved production and productivity in the crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry subsectors; contribute to enhanced performance and sustainability of natural resources, including a reversal of current environmental degradation; promote agricultural commercialization, including facilitation to capacity building and agribusiness linkages in livestock marketing and value addition; and strengthen resilience and coping mechanisms to mitigate the recurrent agro-ecological and economic shocks and hazards

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND GAPS IN 2012

	Djibouti	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Regional	Total
Funding requirements for 2012	7 850 000	14 000 000	27 014 973	172 000 000	23 142 000	41 685 000	NA	293 691 973
Funds received to-date	4 459 022	5 600 000	19 344 973	87 858 657	4 738 692	7 438 553	NA	101 749348
Funding gap	3 390 978	8 400 000	7 670 000	84 234 246	18 403 308	34 246 447	2 000 000	193 942 625

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