



HORN of AFRICA UPDATE

March 2012

SITUATION UPDATE

The situation in the drought-affected areas of the Horn of Africa has improved significantly. However, an estimated 9 million people are still in need of assistance. Livestock body conditions remain good despite the rapid deterioration of vegetation conditions due to abnormally dry and very hot conditions in the pastoral areas of north and northeastern Kenya, southern Ethiopia and southern Somalia. In Somalia, the current estimation by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit of people in need of humanitarian assistance is 2.51 million from February to June 2012. However, if the *Gu* rains are below average as predicted, additional populations are likely to fall into crisis, mainly among agropastoralists and pastoralists. Therefore, there is an urgent need to scale up resilience activities in the coming months to prevent people from losing livelihoods and productive assets and the gains from the recent *Deyr* harvest. According to the just-concluded Kenya Short Rains Assessment, most parts of the country are in Stressed food security phase (IPC Phase 2) with only small pockets facing Crisis food security (IPC Phase 3). The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Kenya is now approximately 2.8 million.

FAO RESPONSE

FAO has renewed its commitment to a Hunger-Free Horn of Africa, emphasizing governments' commitment, policy advocacy, enhanced investment and mapping of up-scalable good practices. In line with this, FAO is strengthening its partnership with national governments, development partners and local and regional stakeholders. At the same time, efforts are being made to redefine the Organization's programmes and expected outputs to focus on results in the Horn of Africa.

Policy Response

FAO is supporting the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in formulating their regional Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Compact and related investment plan, as well as in the design of IGAD's Regional Platform on Disaster Resilience and Sustainability. Expert teams consisting of regional and national consultants have initiated dialogues with stakeholders at regional and country levels to identify regional policy and investment priorities. The Regional CAADP should be signed before June 2012. FAO will also support countries that do not yet have a CAADP Compact in formulating their compacts and investment plans.

FAO will continue to undertake dedicated policy assistance and capacity development support in countries in the Horn of Africa. In Ethiopia, FAO is providing capacity development support to the Ministry of Agriculture's Planning and Programming Division. Plans are underway to support South Sudan in formulating its Agriculture and Food Security Strategy, as well as strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture. Furthermore, FAO has been undertaking policy advocacy work in the subregion since 2011 within the framework of the subregional and national consultations, which bring together key stakeholders in the agriculture sector on policy and programmatic response to high and volatile food prices. A subregional consultation was held in Addis Ababa (March 2011), and the first national consultation was held in Kampala (December 2011). Plans are underway for similar consultations in Kenya and Sudan by mid-2012; and in South Sudan by end 2012. FAO is encouraging other countries to do the same before end 2012.

Investment Response

FAO is supporting various investment programming initiatives working with regional and country stakeholders and development partners to formulate investment programmes aimed at improving resilience of (agro)pastoralist communities. Initial missions are ongoing (March) to design a World Bank-financed regional programme covering Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, to be approved by end 2012. FAO is also providing support to the African Development Bank in formulating programmes in Djibouti, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia to be approved by end September 2012. AfDB investments in Somalia will scale up some of FAO's successful programmes. As a prelude to the 25-28 March Ministerial and Heads of Agencies Meetings to be held in Nairobi, FAO is supporting IGAD and several countries in the Horn of Africa to develop common Regional and Country Programming Frameworks to end drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa. FAO is collaborating with the CGIAR centers in a Technical Consortium, led by ILRI and funded by USAID, to provide a sound knowledge base for investment.

Cluster

The global Food Security Cluster (FSC) has supported coordination and capacity building in the Horn of Africa. Scoping missions were undertaken by the FSC global support team in Djibouti, where the national cluster was newly formed, Ethiopia and Kenya, where coordination is government-led and Somalia, through the UN country offices in Nairobi. Subsequent surge support was provided to the Government of Kenya, through FAO Kenya, using an FSC secondee from CARE International. For Somalia (in Nairobi) the FSC supported the merger of the Agriculture & Livelihoods Cluster and Food Cluster into an FAO-WFP co-led Food Security Cluster. In Sudan and South Sudan, Food Security and Livelihood coordination continues to provide support to all

partners. Inter-cluster perspectives were maintained through a joint Horn of Africa mission with the global Health Cluster in consultation with Nutrition and WASH. Information from the scoping missions supported FSC advocacy efforts in Geneva and Rome. FAO co-chairs the Disaster Risk Management Agricultural Task Force with the Government of Ethiopia.

Trainees from operations in the region attended the FSC Workshops for Cluster Coordinators and Information Managers in Nairobi (November 2011) and Kuala Lumpur (December 2011). In South Sudan, the IFRC and GenCap secondees to the FSC delivered a gender training workshop (November 2011). Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan were sources of information in a Joint Monitoring Mission by the FSC and ECHO in September 2011. The positive assessment has laid a foundation for continued ECHO support in 2012.

Immediate response

On 16 February, the Regional Cash and Voucher Transfer Working Group was launched in Nairobi. The Group is co-chaired by FAO and hosted by the Interagency Working Group. Cash transfers and voucher mechanisms are central to FAO's response to the crisis in the region. In Somalia, almost 130 000 households have received USD 19.4 million through the cash transfer programme since July 2011. In Kenya, FAO has used voucher mechanisms to assist 15 000 drought-affected households (90 000 people). In Djibouti, the rehabilitation of small-scale agriculture infrastructure through cash-for-work activities is benefiting almost 31 000 households.

Given likely normal to below-normal rainfall in Kenya's arid and semi-arid areas between March and May, FAO Kenya is looking to upscale its emergency response programme to protect livelihoods that have not recovered from the drought. Currently, FAO Kenya is reaching 185 000 drought-affected households (1.1 million people) through livestock, crop production, cash-for-work and small-scale irrigation interventions. Efforts are also urgently needed to build on the gains of the *Deyr* 2011/12 rainfall in Somalia and maintain food access, especially given the lack of food assistance partners in southern Somalia. To-date, 158 333 households in the country have received support for crop production (seeds, fertilizers and training), and a further 300 833 households will receive assistance in time for the *Gu* and *Deyr* seasons. In addition, 55 833 households will receive vegetable seeds. In Ethiopia, 16 000 people are receiving support for root and tuber production, while local seed production is being promoted in Sudan and South Sudan.

Fodder production, and livestock vaccination and treatment services are benefiting pastoral and agro-pastoral households in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti. In Ethiopia, cattle belonging to 100 000 households are being vaccinated against lumpy skin disease, while in Somalia, the vaccination campaign against *peste des petits ruminants* is targeting 2 150 000 animals across the country. In Kenya, FAO is carrying out animal health activities for 2 000 000 livestock, including a vaccination campaign, de-worming and multivitamin injections to improve animals' immunity and resilience. FAO Kenya is also supporting holistic community-based planning for rangeland management that will benefit 20 000 households. Vaccines, medicines and micronutrients are being distributed for 100 000 livestock in Djibouti.

FAO has developed a 90-day work plan, outlining priority activities that urgently require funding in order to support farmers and (agro)pastoralists in time for the next planting season (April to June) and prevent the crisis from deepening.

Regional initiatives in support of emergency response

The first pilot of the People First Impact Method for impact measuring was rolled out in Mwingi, Kenya and the results presented by FAO – in collaboration with the Joint Standards Initiative (SPHERE, HAP and People in Aid) – during the Emergency Capacity Building Conference in Kampala in February. The second assessment is currently being undertaken in Turkana. FAO is now co-chairing the Interagency Working Group subgroup on Quality and Accountability, and chairing the Regional Gender and Rural Livelihood Network.

IMMEDIATE 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	180 000 000	23 142 000	41 685 000	NA	293 691 973
Funds received to-date	4 459 022	4 100 000	19 344 973	64 904 000	4 738 692	4 202 661	NA	101 749 348
Funding gap	3 390 978	9 900 000	7 670 000	115 096 000	18 403 308	37 482 339	2 000 000	193 942 625
Gap for unfunded priority activities (mid-March to June 2012)	2 050 000	7 100 000	7 670 000	9 740 842	12 039 158	9 400 000	2 000 000	50 000 000

CONTACTS

Mr Laurent Thomas
Assistant Director-General
 Technical Cooperation Department
 E-mail: Laurent.Thomas@fao.org
 Tel: +39 06 570 55042

Mr Castro Camarada
Subregional Coordinator
 Subregional Office for Eastern Africa
 E-mail: Castro.Camarada@fao.org
 Tel: + 251 11 647 8749

Ms Cristina Amaral
Chief
 Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation
 Division
 E-mail: Cristina.Amaral@fao.org
 Tel: +39 06 570 53290