

HIGHLIGHTS

- **12.3 million people** are in need of urgent assistance across the Horn of Africa.
- The impact of the drought on food availability has been exacerbated by **continued high food prices** throughout the region and poor livestock-to-cereal terms of trade, which have seriously reduced herders' ability to access food.
- FAO is continuing to assist the most vulnerable households affected by the current food security crisis; however, to-date the Organization has received just **USD 65.8 million** of the USD 161 million requested in July 2011. A further **USD 95 million** is urgently required.
- Agriculture (including crop and livestock production) is the most important livelihood system in the region, with about **80 percent** of the population relying on some form of agricultural production.

FAO continues to emphasize the need to work with governments and regional authorities to ensure a comprehensive response to the crisis that encompasses: (i) saving lives and livelihoods; (ii) promoting early recovery; and (iii) supporting sustainable livelihoods and strengthening the resilience of households and the food systems on which they rely.

The benefits of previous investments in food and nutrition security are clearly evident, particularly in areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, where people traditionally hit by drought have been able to cope without emergency assistance this year.

CURRENT FUNDING RECEIVED FOR FAO'S DROUGHT RESPONSE PROGRAMME

Country	FAO funding requirement	Funds received to-date*	Funds in the pipeline^	Total funds received + pipeline	Funding gap
Somalia	70 000 000	24 027 334	21 600 693	45 628 027	24 371 973
Ethiopia	12 500 000	2 145 901	1 825 066	3 970 967	8 529 033
Kenya	27 260 000	6 118 964	1 892 284	8 011 248	19 248 752
Djibouti	6 540 918	2 461 326	1 113 608	3 574 934	2 965 984
Regional	1 900 000	0	873 142	873 142	1 026 858
South Sudan	15 878 300	3 742 591	0	3 742 591	12 135 709
Sudan	21 000 000	0	0	0	21 000 000
Uganda	6 000 000	0	0	0	600 000
Total	161 079 218	38 496 116	27 304 793	65 800 909	95 278 309

*This is reflected in the UNOCHA Financial Tracking System and FAO's Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS)

^This reflects funding pledged but not yet received.

Note: The regional projects have been split by country in the above table, while in FPMIS, for technical reasons, regional projects are not split by country, but show the total of the project including all the countries.

LINKS

Disaster risk reduction: www.disasterriskreduction.net
 FAO: <http://www.fao.org/crisis/horn-africa/home/en>
 FSNAU: www.fsnau.org
 FAO and emergencies: http://www.fao.org/emergencies/country_information/list/regional/crisishoa/en/
 SWALIM: www.faoswalim.org

CONTACTS

Ms Cristina Amaral
Chief, Emergency Operations Service
 Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Roma, Italy
 Tel: +39 06 570 53290
 E-mail: Cristina.Amaral@fao.org

LATEST FAO ACTIVITIES IN THE DROUGHT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

SOMALIA

Restoring farmers' crop production capacity by distributing agricultural inputs and providing technical assistance in conservation agriculture: FAO is targeting 158 333 farming households (949 998 people), in which 30 percent of the members are women. These households will receive 1 600 tonnes of maize, 900 tonnes of sorghum, 4 000 tonnes of urea, 1 300 tonnes of DAP and 140 tonnes of sesame, as well as training on the proper use of these improved inputs and good agricultural practices in the eight regions of south-central Somalia. The inputs have been procured and are currently being distributed.

The transport of the 1 500 tonnes of maize, 800 tonnes of sorghum and 120 tonnes of sesame seeds that were procured in Somalia is ongoing to partner organizations and should be completed next week. Distribution to farmers will begin after this. The shipment of 3 750 tonnes of urea and 1300 tonnes of DAP arrived in Mogadishu on 22 September and clearance and offloading is ongoing. Distribution to partner organizations is planned for next week and onward distribution to beneficiaries immediately after in time for the coming planting season (October to December).

Safeguarding the livelihoods and remaining assets of vulnerable, small-scale herders by improving fodder production and distribution, and rangeland management: FAO is planning to assist 1 400 households (8 400 people) through fodder production with funds already committed. Implementing partners have been selected and the implementation strategy developed. Distribution plans are being put in place and the activity is expected to begin in November.

Emergency syndromic disease surveillance, treatment and vaccination: With current funding, FAO began a five-week treatment campaign against internal and external parasites, common infectious diseases and blood parasites, beginning with an awareness campaign and community mobilization on 28 September. Approximately 4 million treatments will be carried out in early October for animals in Gedo, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, Bay, Middle Shabelle, Hiraan, Gagaduud and South Mugdug regions of south-central Somalia to approximately 121 200 households (727 200 beneficiaries).

FAO is also currently procuring vaccines and 16 veterinary cold chain equipments, targeting 10 million animals and set to benefit 303 030 pastoral households in a vaccination campaign against pasteurellosis and *peste des petits ruminants* in Somaliland, Puntland and south Somalia. The vaccination campaign is expected to begin in mid-November. FAO is currently assessing the number of animals to be vaccinated against contagious caprine pleuropneumonia.

Providing collapsible water tanks and water trucking: FAO is procuring 96 collapsible water tanks (50 x 20 000 litres and 46 x 10 000 litres) and delivery of the tanks to Nairobi is expected next week. The tanks will then be distributed to Lower Juba, Bay, Middle Juba and South Gedo districts to assist 9 725 households in the bulk storage of water in livestock grazing blocks immediately.

Cash-for-work opportunities for the rehabilitation of productive infrastructure (water catchments, canals, feeder roads, etc.): FAO is targeting 67 105 households (402 630 people), 30 percent of whom are women. These activities are being funded under both ongoing and pipeline projects in all eight regions of south Somalia. Each household will receive USD 3/day for 72 working days while rehabilitating infrastructure: water catchments, water canals, bush clearing of feeder roads in cash-for-work activities.

Currently, 42 886 households (257 316 people) are targeted by ongoing projects in Bay, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Gedo and Hiraan regions, with 28 010 households (168 060 people) already having benefited from USD 2 144 493 that was injected as cash-for-work payments between 27 July and 23 September.

GAPS: Amount of funding still required: USD 24 million.

KENYA

Type of activities: Support to pastoral livelihoods, capacity development, coordination, voucher for work, support to the rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation schemes.

Quantity of inputs procured and distributed: Procurement process initiated for: 256 tonnes of drought-tolerant seed; veterinary drugs worth USD 249 000, two million doses of *peste des petits ruminants* vaccine and 400 000 doses of Rift Valley fever (RVF) vaccine and 1 000 litres of pour-on acaricide. **Note:** FAO has just received a request from the Government to upscale support for the procurement and delivery of RVF vaccine and pour-on acaricide.

Number of households receiving support: 1 000 000.

Percentage of these headed by women/youth: 5 percent.

Expected outputs of FAO interventions: Current interventions are targeted at protecting available livelihood assets as well as building capacities to plant crops during the forthcoming rainy season. The expected outcome of these activities is increased access to food and milk for target beneficiaries. There will, however, be a significant time lag before this outcome is achieved as crops need to grow to maturity and livestock need to calve/kid before the availability of milk increases. FAO is therefore working through cash-for-work schemes and partnering with WFP's food-for-assets programme in order to increase the short-term availability of food at household level.

Key results to-date: Results to date are most significant in areas where FAO has had a prolonged engagement. For example, where FAO intervened prior to the drought families have significant access to food. This is most noticeable in the 12 irrigation schemes that FAO has rehabilitated. In these schemes a total of 5 000 families (50 000 people) have sufficient access to food to be able to sell excess. The secondary beneficiaries of these activities are difficult to enumerate but are significant.

GAPS: Amount of funding still required: USD 19 million.

Priorities for funding: Input supply for food production and support to animal health (with a particular focus on RVF)

ETHIOPIA

- 1 479 cattle and 1 565 sheep and goats have been slaughtered in Borana Zone, Guji Zone and Somali Region and the meat distributed to 10 003 households, injecting USD 93 318 into the economies of 2 384 households that sold their animals.
- Six *elas* (traditional hand-dug wells) and three ponds are being rehabilitated.
- 6 000 head of cattle are receiving survival feed in two drought-affected regions (Afar and Oromiya,
- Seeds are being procured by FAO, for onward distribution to farming households.
- FAO continues to coordinate the Agricultural Task Force at the federal and regional levels.
- FAO is monitoring the drought response activities and developing a road map for early recovery.

GAPS: Amount of funding still required: USD 9.75 million.

DJIBOUTI

Increasing access to water in rural pastoralist and agropastoralist communities: FAO is currently rehabilitating 15 key wells and troughs in rural areas for human and livestock water consumption. In addition, the Organization is increasing its support to water harvesting technology in rural areas by constructing and rehabilitating 12 additional cisterns of 100 m³ in Dikhil and Obock and distributing 500 water barrels (200 l each) to drought-affected communities.

FAO's rural water point rehabilitating programme is increasing access to underground water sources in rural pastoralist and agropastoralist communities, which will benefit 10 000 households in five regions of Djibouti. Some 60 percent of the beneficiaries are estimated to be women and women-headed households, which are being specifically targeted through the programme.

Supporting animal health: Vaccines, medicines and micronutrients are being distributed to prevent and treat pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition, and ticks in 100 000 head of livestock. Djibouti's pastoralists have faced massive livestock losses over the last two years. FAO is therefore cautiously initiating a re-stocking programming in view of forecast rains, with the distribution of 3 250 pregnant goats in Dikhil, Arta and Obock.

Increasing the availability of fodder: FAO is currently organizing emergency fodder distribution and support to irrigated fodder production, including distributing 150 tonnes of hay for goats.

Rehabilitating drought-affected agriculture: FAO is rehabilitating small vegetable/fodder gardens, targeting 10 percent of Djibouti's small gardens. In addition, sustainable agriculture is being promoted through the rehabilitation of 125 micro-irrigation systems. FAO's main partners in its agricultural rehabilitation programme are the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy and Water, and the National Women's Union of Djibouti, which will assist the Organization in reaching women and women-headed households.

Building resilience in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors: FAO is working closely with the Ministries of Agriculture and of the Interior to strengthen the disaster risk management (DRM) platform for Djibouti, putting in place mechanisms including early warning systems and information collection and diffusion systems to minimize the risk and potential scale of future disasters and increase the capacity of domestic institutions to respond immediately to crises.

Supporting disaster risk reduction (DRR)/DRM and food security in the refugee camp: FAO is also seeking increased funding for its efforts to support the Ministry of Agriculture in its efforts to strengthen medium- and long-term resilience to drought and for DRR programming to ensure the wellbeing and food security of the country's pastoral and agropastoral communities in the future.

FAO is helping to build food security in the refugee camp in Ali Adde (Ali Sabieh/Djibouti), which, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), currently houses 17 600 refugees (over 5 000 households), almost exclusively from southern Somalia. An estimated 100 refugees are arriving each week and the number seems to be rising. UNHCR expects the total refugee population in Djibouti to reach 20 800 people by the end of 2011.

GAPS: USD 4.2 million is still required for immediate and short-term recovery interventions so that drought-affected communities can protect their livelihoods

LATEST SITUATION IN THE DROUGHT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

SOMALIA¹

Progress of the rainy season:

- *Gu* 2011 rainy season (April to June): started late in most of Somalia, with a long dry spell in late May-June. There was erratic rainfall and significant deficits in most of south-central Somalia, with near normal rainfall recorded in most northern regions, although there were significant deficits in some areas.
- *Hagaa* and *Karan* rains (July to August): no significant amounts of rainfall recorded in southern Somalia, although moderate rainfall was received in the upper Ethiopian highlands
- *Deyr* season rains: due to begin in October (through to December).

Crop production: In anticipation of the coming *Deyr* rainy season farmers have begun to prepare their lands and sowing is expected to begin in the last week of October.

¹ Information from the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) *Gu* 2011 assessment, Dedakal Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring exercise (13 September 2011) and Monthly Market Data Analysis (August/September).

Water and pasture:

- Harvested water from the *Gu* rains is almost depleted in most regions, except those that received *Karan* rains in the north (Awdal and West Galbeed) or *Hagaa* showers (mostly Lower Shabelle).
- Water trucking reported in berkad- and water catchment-dependent pastoral areas.
- Water prices in rain deficit areas of the south (Juba, Bay, Bakool, Hiraan) and north (Bari, Nugal, Sanaag) rose by 17 to 50 percent and by 15 to 32 percent respectively between July and August.
- Water levels in the Juba and Shabelle Rivers rose following moderate rains in the upper Ethiopian highlands in early September.
- Pasture is almost depleted in key grazing areas of rain-deficit livelihood zones, although some pasture is available in locations far from permanent water sources and in areas that received *Karan* or *Hagaa* rains.
- Livestock that migrated to Lower Shabelle remain in the region, taking advantage of the relatively better pasture and water owing to average *Hagaa* rains.

Livestock condition:

- Livestock body condition continues to deteriorate, particularly in milking animals (cattle and sheep) that have not recovered from the drought. Camels and goats have also lost some body condition.
- Following good *Hagaa* rains in Awdal, West Galbeed and Lower Shabelle, there has been some improvement in livestock body condition, leading to improved camel milk production and higher household milk consumption and sale.

Market prices:

- There were minimal changes to the Consumer Price Index in August, with the cost of living declining slightly in south-central zones (3 to 7 percent) and rising marginally in the north (2 to 4 percent).
- Local cereal prices have declined in the main markets (by 3 percent in Shabelle, 6 percent in Juba and 11 percent in the sorghum belt) owing to some supply of cereals from current harvests and ongoing relief food distribution in southern Somalia.
- With the exception of Mogadishu, prices of imported commodities (rice, sugar, wheat flour, vegetable oil, petrol and diesel) remained stable in the first half of December. Inflation in Mogadishu is partly due to increased demand from the IDP influx.

Food security and nutrition:

- Average global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence: 36.4 percent.
- Average severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence: 15.8 percent.
- The highest recorded level of acute malnutrition is in Bay, where the GAM prevalence is 58.3 percent.

KENYA

Progress of the rainy season: Average to above-average rains are forecast for the coming three months (October to December).

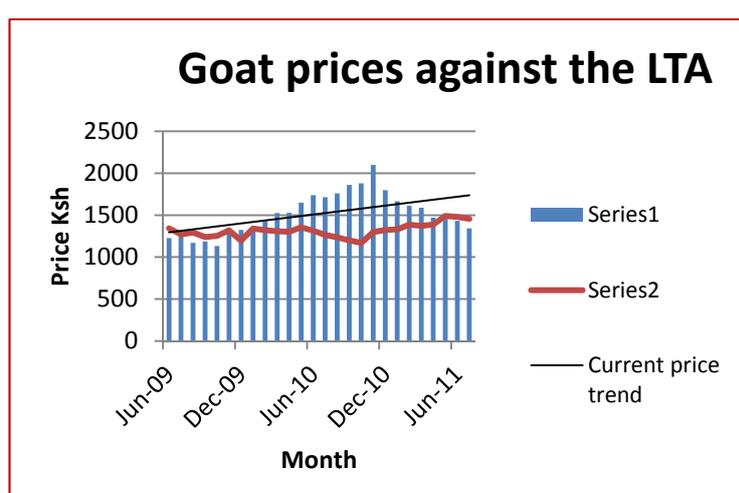
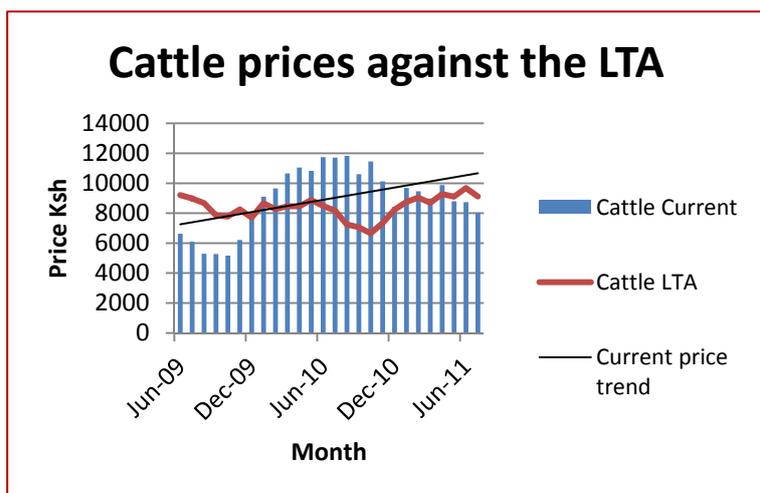
Crop production: Farmers are preparing their lands for the October rains. **Seed availability remains a significant issue** as farmers have either sold or eaten seeds that they had retained for planting. This is highlighted by a recent seed availability assessment conducted by the Government in partnership with FAO and Catholic Relief Services.

Water and pasture quality: In the worst-affected parts of the country, pasture remains scarce, with an average distance between water and available grazing of 31.5 km across Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa counties.

Livestock condition continues to deteriorate as indicated by the decline in market prices (see **Figures 1 and 2**).

Figure 1: Cattle prices plotted against the five year average

Figure 2: Goat prices plotted against the five year average



Market prices: while livestock prices are decreasing, they remain much higher than the levels reached during the 2009 drought. The terms of trade between livestock and maize have, however, decreased to a level that is worse than the 2009 drought owing to the unprecedented cost of maize (**Figures 3 and 4**). This is significant and shows that, while the current situation has been exacerbated by drought, the 2009 drought had far greater impact in terms of both livestock prices and mortality. What is driving the current crisis is, therefore, much more related to high food prices than the drought itself.

Figure 3: Cattle to maize terms of trade

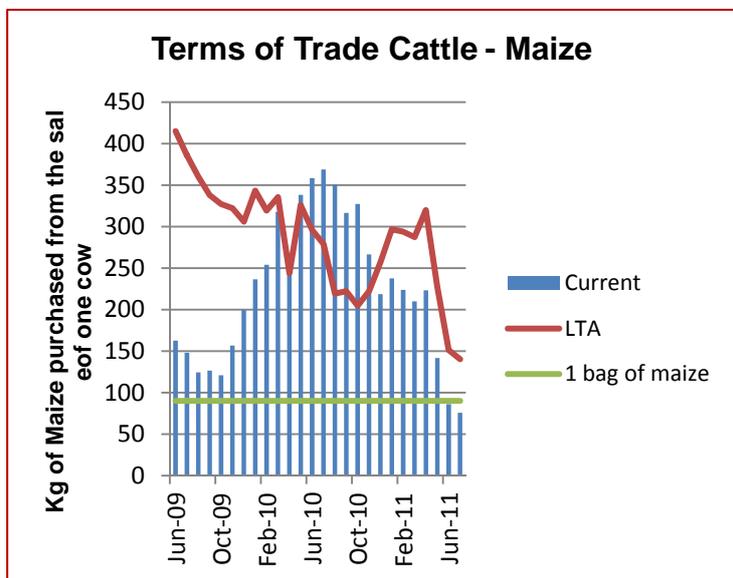
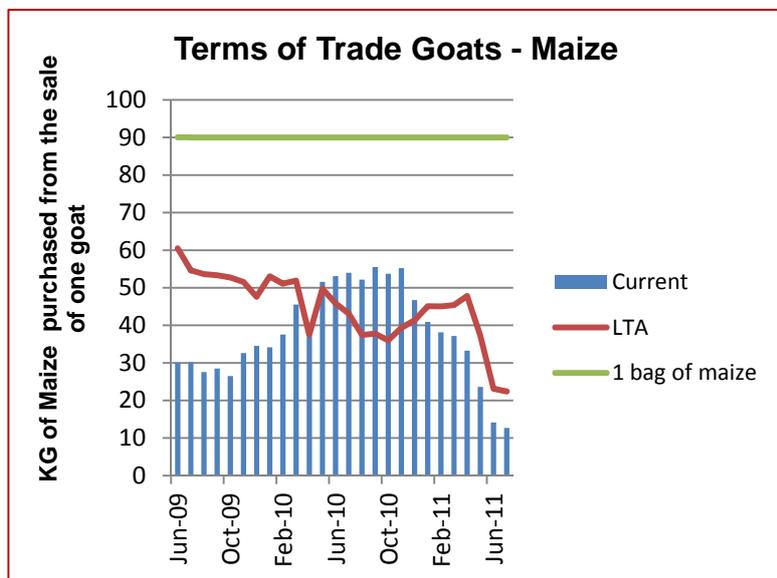


Figure 4: Goat to maize terms of trade



NOTE: While the prices of cattle and goats remain reasonable (relative to prices in the 2009 drought), the terms of trade against maize have decreased to unprecedented levels with one cow fetching less than the cost of a 90 kg bag of maize and the sale of one goat only providing sufficient funds to procure 12 kg of maize. Given the current availability of maize on the local market (which is limited) and the current rates of inflation (the Kenya Shilling has reached an unprecedented low against the US Dollar), the price of maize and inputs for maize production, which are primarily imported, are set to rise even further. Thus, despite the predicted enhanced October rains, the crisis is likely to continue until the price of maize and imported inputs stabilizes.

Food security and nutrition situation: The number of food insecure people in Kenya has risen to **3.75 million**. Malnutrition rates continue to rise in the worst affected areas, with a high of 38 percent of children under five at risk of malnutrition in Isiolo district. In the west of Kenya, malnutrition rates remain high but have begun to fall with MUAC rates falling from 28 to 26 percent in Turkana county over the last month.

ETHIOPIA

Progress of the rainy season:

- Moderate to good amounts of rainfall, evenly distributed, in most of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) Region, East and West Hararghe (Oromiya Region), northern parts of Somali Region, northern Borana, most of Afar.
- Dry conditions persisted in southern Somali Region, southern Borana, south Omo (SNNP Region).
- Continued flood alert for Wabishabelle River (water level fluctuating between 8.2 and 8.5 m), following small-scale flooding in Mustahil *woreda* – no damage was reported.
- Landslides accompanied heavy rain in Gamogofa Zone (SNNP Region), displacing 95 households and damaging 31 ha of crops.

Crop production:

- Good overall performance of the Meher crop owing to favourable weather conditions in East and West Hararghe, most of SNNP Region and northern Somali Region.
- Cropping is well underway in agropastoral *woredas* and, in some *woredas* of Afar Region, cotton harvesting has begun.
- Haricot bean and maize crops are flowering in northern agropastoral *woredas* of Borana zone.
- A yellow rust outbreak in Hadiya Zone is almost under control, and the outbreak is being closely monitored in Gamogofa Zone (SNNP Region).
- Crop damage has been reported in northern agropastoral *woredas* of Borana Zone owing to armyworm and mill bug infestations.
- Total crop production this year is expected to be good.

Water and pasture quality:

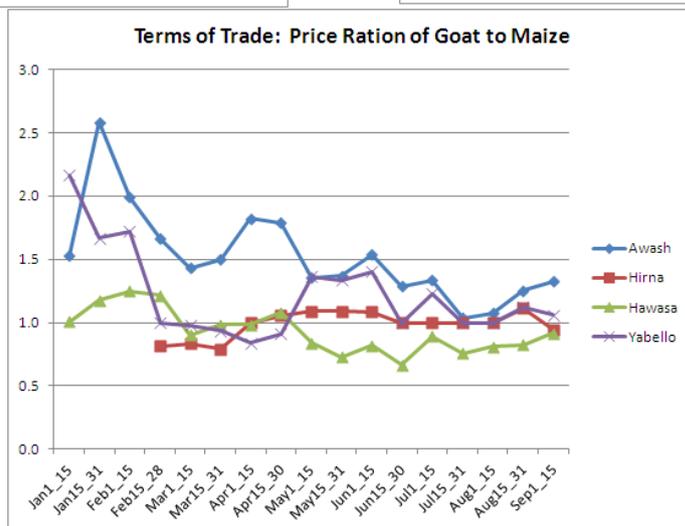
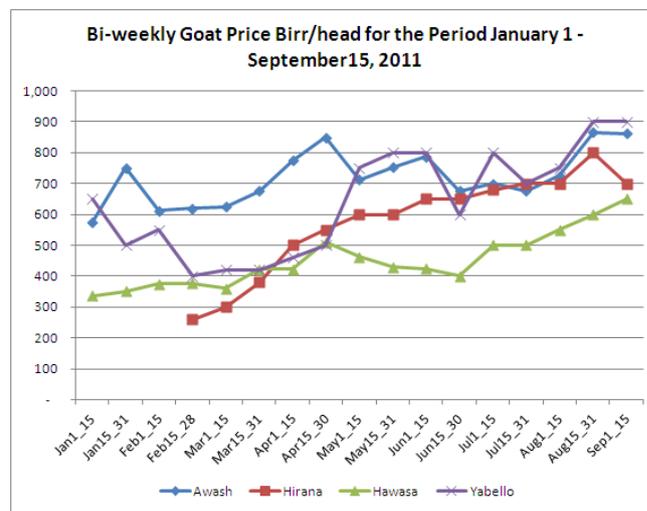
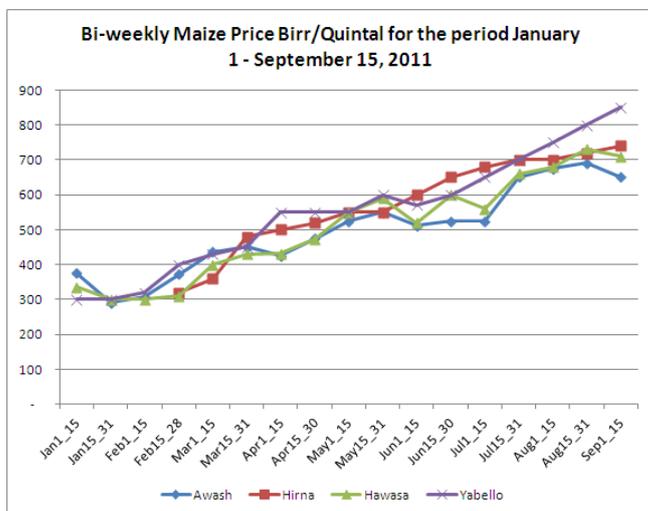
- Adequate amounts of water and pasture are available in most of Afar, East and West Hararghe, SNNP Region and northern Borana, which should maintain livestock until November.
- **Pronounced water and pasture shortages have been noted in southern parts of Borana, and Somali Region.** Livestock from these areas have migrated to northern parts to access water and pasture.
- As water shortages have persisted, and worsened, in some areas of Somali Region, emergency water trucking interventions are underway in 19 hotspot *woredas*; however, **much more is required.**

Livestock condition:

- Increased spread of foot-and-mouth disease reported in lowland areas of Sidama Zone (SNNP Region) owing to vaccine shortages.
- Livestock body condition has improved in most areas in which water and pasture are available. However, poor body condition, particularly among cattle, is reported in lowland areas of Borana, southern Somali and eastern Afar Regions.
- The drought has meant lower livestock birthing rates this year, meaning the total volume of milk production is expected to be reduced. In lowland Borana and southern Somali, there has been no or little milk production owing to dry conditions.

Market prices:

- Price of food grains remains high in Somali, Borana, and East and West Hararghe. The high cost of transporting grains from highlands has pushed prices higher.
- During September, slight reductions were recorded in the markets in Hawassa and Awash, i.e. a drop from USD 39-42/100 kg at the end of August to about ETB 38-41/100 kg today.
- The price of cereals has also declined in most markets in Somali owing to the distribution of food assistance by humanitarian agencies, while the price of imported commodities (sugar and rice) remains high.
- The livestock-cereal terms of trade have declined since January 2011, negatively affecting purchasing power. Although the fall in cereal prices has slightly improved the terms of trade in Somali Region.



Food security and nutrition: Food and livelihood responses are underway in most of the drought-affected regions. The distribution of humanitarian inputs, coupled with the positive *Meher* production in most areas and improved milk production in pastoral and agropastoral areas in which water and pasture are available, has contributed to improving food security. However, significant numbers of people remain malnourished and in need of external support, particularly in lowland *woredas* of Borana and southern Somali and chronically food insecure areas of SNPP Region (i.e. Wolaita, Kembata Tamboro and Hadiya Zones).

DJIBOUTI

Progress of the rainy season: According to FEWS NET, contrary to assumptions made in the July Outlook, the July to September *Karan/Karma* rains have been below-average in intensity and spatial distribution and ineffective in regenerating pastures and water points. Most parts of the country show deficits greater than 40 mm compared with the 2006–10 average.

Water and pasture:

- The August rains replenished the Andaba catchment in western parts of northwest Djibouti.
- Eastern areas of the northwest continue to face a critical lack of water.
- Pasture and browse remain below average and livestock are concentrated in Ouadi areas where there is some browse.
- Near- to above-normal rains are expected in coastal areas in the coming months owing to neutral *El Niño* conditions in the region. These should improve browse, pasture and water availability in coast grazing areas of Djibouti City, Tadjourah, Arta and Obock.

Livestock condition:

- The below-average *karma* rains led to reduced herd sizes owing to above-average livestock mortality, particularly in northwest pastoral and southeast border livelihood zones.
- Milk production from October to December will be below average.

Market prices:

- Prices of key staple foods (including sugar, wheat and rice) have risen 12 to 40 percent above last year's prices nationwide. The most significant increases have been for wheat flour and in Djibouti City.
- Kerosene prices also remain high, while charcoal production and supply has increased driven by high demand in urban areas for a substitute to kerosene and as a coping strategy in response to high cereal prices. The price of charcoal in Djibouti City is about 5 percent lower than this time last year.

FAO'S INTERVENTIONS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

SOUTH SUDAN

SITUATION UPDATE

Rainfall:

- **The rainy season in South Sudan has begun to be of great concern.** A comparison of vegetation development using satellite imagery for the current season with the previous season shows areas of poor performance in most states, including Lakes, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, Warrap, parts of Central Equatoria, Upper Nile and Jonglei states. This is likely to affect food production and pasture conditions if the erratic rainfall continues.
- Recent rainfall forecasts indicate a high probability of normal to above-normal rainfall in most of South Sudan, but there is no indication of how this will be distributed and its likely impact on crop and pasture development. There is also a possibility of flooding if much of the rainfall is received towards the end of the season. The forecast also indicates a high probability of normal to below-normal rainfall for southern parts of Central Equatoria and most of Eastern Equatoria.

Crop production: The rapid crop assessment conducted in August indicated a likely drop in cereal production by 30 to 40 percent compared with the previous year's production. Therefore, **South Sudan will have a cereal deficit of at least 390 000 tonnes, corresponding to almost one-third of national cereal requirements.** A full FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission will be conducted from 17 October to 12 November to verify cereal production statistics for 2012 consumption.

Water and pasture availability:

- Water availability for livestock has improved significantly with cattle not having to travel long distances in search of water.
- There has been a significant improvement in pasture availability. However, there remain areas in which pastures are poor, particularly in Eastern Equatoria, where poor rainfall has meant pastures have not been rejuvenated. Other areas with poor pastures, based on normalized difference vegetation index imagery, include Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap, and northern parts of Upper Nile state.

Livestock condition:

- Livestock are mostly in good condition owing to the availability of water and pasture.
- There are abnormal livestock movements from some areas and high concentrations in other locations owing to insecurity, which could affect the quality of pastures and lead to outbreaks of livestock disease owing to overcrowding.
- There have been reports of some livestock diseases in most states: East Coast fever, foot-and-mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia and haemorrhagic septicaemia.

Market prices:

- Market prices in most parts of South Sudan are very high.
- Worst-affected areas: northern border states, where prices are persistently high, undermining households' ability to access food. The situation is likely to continue owing to insecurity along cross-border supply routes, projected poor production in surplus-producing areas of the Sudan and non-acceptance of currencies across the border.
- Prices along the northern border states increased by more than 50 percent.

FAO's ongoing interventions

Boosting farmers' crop production capacity: FAO distributed 2 836 tonnes of seeds and 323 939 hand tools to 165 000 beneficiaries in time for the 2011 main planting season. The inputs were distributed through seed fairs in some areas (Magwi and Malualkon), which were extremely successful. Forty percent of the seeds distributed were sourced from local markets.

Diversifying livelihood options: Fisheries production provides critical livelihoods support to many families living along the Nile and Sobat Rivers, around other small bodies of water and during periods of flooding. FAO has stepped up its distribution of fishing equipment, responding to the needs of 11 451 fishing households in seven states.

Improving nutritional status: Through various training activities and the distribution of 2.6 tonnes of vegetable seeds, alongside the provision of micro-irrigation equipment, FAO has sought to enable vulnerable communities to improve their food security, incomes and nutritional status, not just in the dry season, but also in the rainy season when some crop have already failed. To-date 26 000 farmers have received assistance.

Disease surveillance, vaccination and treatment: South Sudan has 11 million head of cattle and over 19 million sheep and goats. Livestock rearing generally follows a semi-nomadic agropastoralist system, combining cattle and small ruminant production with some crop cultivation.

FAO manages South Sudan's cold chain network, including vaccines procured by FAO and the Government. So far, the network has responded to various needs across the country and facilitated the vaccination of 3.8 million animals between January and August.

GAPS: USD 12 million

THE SUDAN

The Transitional Areas and Darfur region have been experiencing a **complex humanitarian emergency**, resulting in the loss of agricultural assets, such as seeds, farming tools and livestock, severely impacting on the productive capacity of affected civilian populations. Humanitarian needs remain generally high, as the population continues to suffer widespread poverty and inequitable development.

The security situation in South Kordofan state remains tense, with an estimated 400 000 people displaced or severely affected by the fighting that broke out on 6 June 2011. The fighting that broke out in Blue Nile on 1st September 2011 is estimated to have displaced over 150 000 people to neighbouring states and countries and affected more than 200 000 people. The security situation and access restrictions led to a reduction in the number of humanitarian staff in the region, especially in Abyei Area, South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. The rainy season and resulting poor road conditions exacerbated the difficulty in accessing some of the conflict-hit areas. The fighting took place during the peak agricultural season, which is expected to lead to **lower than usual crop harvests in October 2011** as farmers were displaced from their fields and did not plant and those who planted have their crops seriously affected by weeds.

In order to compensate for these low harvests, FAO is focusing on intensifying vegetable production and other livelihood interventions, with activities including irrigation for vegetable gardens; support to processing, storing and marketing produce; and re-stocking with small ruminants. However, funding is urgently needed to support these interventions and improve the food insecurity of conflict-hit populations in Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

FAO's ongoing interventions in the Sudan (mainly the Transitional Areas and Darfur) cover five main areas:

- crop production (provision of agricultural productive inputs and services and training on crop husbandry);
- livestock asset protection (vaccination and treatment of livestock, training and equipping CAHWs, livestock disease surveillance, and rehabilitation of water points, veterinary centres and clinics);
- environmental protection and restoration (producing and planting multipurpose tree seedlings, training on the production and use of fuel-efficient stoves, supporting farm protection and natural resource-based conflict transformation);
- livelihoods diversification and technology transfer (agroprocessing, oil extraction, water harvesting, small-scale irrigation, livestock restocking, providing animal traction, supporting blacksmithing for the production of agricultural tools); and
- coordination of the Food Security and Livelihoods Sector (information gathering, gap analysis, capacity development, etc.).

GAPS: USD 21 million

UGANDA

SITUATION UPDATE

Rainfall: The second rainy season (September to December) has started with an increased likelihood of near-normal rainfall for southern, central, eastern Uganda and the Lake Victoria basin. In northern and northeastern regions, the rains are declining and expected to end in mid-October, which is earlier than normal. This could affect the second season crop.

Crop production: Harvesting of the first season crop is concluding with above-average performance in most of the southern half of the country. In northern Uganda and west Nile region, the harvest has been average and below-average, respectively. Planting of the second season crop is at an advanced state in most bimodal rainfall areas.

Water and pasture availability: Sustained rainfall in the last three months has provided sufficient water and pasture for livestock production.

Livestock condition: The current adequate pasture and water availability is benefiting livestock nutrition and performance. However, the humid conditions are also conducive to the proliferation of disease vectors, particularly ticks, insects and worms, especially in Karamoja region. Quarantine across a number of districts remains owing to a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak earlier this year. There are potential threats of *peste des petits ruminants* and Rift Valley fever, particularly if no control measures are put in place, such as through a mass vaccination campaign. The risk extends to brucellosis, a zoonotic disease that has reached epidemic levels in Karamoja (17 percent prevalence in cattle and 7 percent in goats).

Market prices: Despite the ongoing harvest and relative decline in prices for most food commodities (compared with early 2011), prices remain above the 2010 and five-year averages.

Food security and nutrition: An estimated 600 000 people, mainly in northern Uganda, continue to face moderate food insecurity.

The overall GAM level in Karamoja region in September was 9.1 percent, which is a reduction from the May 2011 figure of 12.8 percent. There was no significant decrease in SAM in Karamoja (2.8 percent in May and 1.9 percent in September). Stunting is at 34.2 percent (according to the United Nations Children's Fund and Action contre la faim nutrition surveillance round 6 in September 2011).

FAO's ongoing interventions

Type of activities: Support to agropastoral communities through agropastoral field schools and junior farmer field and life schools; continued support to district local governments to carry out animal disease surveillance, particularly in Karamoja, where various outbreaks have been reported; technical backstopping and coordination support to stakeholders in the Regional Drought Cycle Management Project; and preparing for a post-harvest seasonal assessment in the vulnerable Karamoja region.

Quantity of inputs procured and distributed: 2 000 bags of cassava cuttings and sweet potato vines have been distributed in support of establishing multiplication gardens in the wet belts of Karamoja region.

Number of households receiving support: 14 500.

GAPS: USD 6 million

ENSURING A GENDER DIMENSION TO THE DROUGHT-RESPONSE

Conflicts and natural disasters and consequent displacement affect women, girls, boys and men differently. They face different risks (on being food security), they have different access to and control over finances and resources and are victimized in different ways.

At the early stages of the drought, FAO's Subregional Emergency Office for Eastern and Central Africa (REOA) circulated fact sheets on HIV and drought and gender-based violence (GBV) and drought, produced under its leadership by the Regional Interagency Working Group on HIV and GBV based on guidance from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Gender checklists for Food Security and Nutrition Interventions, based on the IASC Gender Handbook, were also circulated to FAO country offices and partners.

Through the regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) and the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT), these guidance documents were widely disseminated and an article on gender and HIV was developed and included in the FSNWG Updates.

The regional network on gender and rural livelihoods, led by REOA, recently met to examine the impact of the drought on gender relations, through which gender-related information was shared among regional stakeholders, including FAO, AGRA, ILRI, ICRW, IFAD, the World Bank and others. The stakeholders agreed to plan joint activities to ensure advocacy on gender, as well as to share mainstreaming tools and exchange knowledge.

The regional gender officers from FAO, IFAD and WFP developed a joint concept note for a joint programme to respond to the Horn of Africa crisis, focusing on gender (REOA convened the meeting and led the preparation of the first draft).

REOA has also provided technical inputs on gender to FAO's project documents and frameworks, including for a project in Kenya and the FAO Priority Framework for the Rehabilitation and Development Support to Livestock Production in the Greater Horn of Africa.

In a pastoral field school Master Training workshop in Ethiopia, a one-week training session on gender, HIV and nutrition was conducted for 20 master trainers (16 from Ethiopia and 4 from Kenya), including staff from FAO, NGOs and government partners. A similar training exercise will be organized for master trainers in Lodwar, Kenya in October.

Through a regional HIV and gender project, national gender and HIV officers are providing technical support to six countries, including two that have been affected by the current drought: Kenya and Uganda.

Planning for additional gender training is underway and technical support is available to all countries in the region.

UPDATES FROM KEY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

MINI-SUMMIT ON THE HORN OF AFRICA, NEW YORK – 24 SEPTEMBER 2011:

In an effort to focus attention on the growing needs of affected people in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti; increase awareness of the humanitarian response in the region and identify ways of overcoming operational challenges, a mini-summit was held during the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 24 September. The participants highlighted the need to forge links between emergency relief and longer-term country-led interventions to reduce vulnerability to future food crises, emphasizing the importance of addressing underlying risk factors and promoting strengthened resilience in dryland livelihoods. At least USD 218 million in assistance was pledged to the relief effort in the Horn of Africa as a result of the mini-summit, which was attended by over 60 nations.

“ ... in the long term, this is a crisis of resilience and development... Even as we keep people alive today, we must help them survive a new crisis tomorrow.” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, address at the Mini-Summit on the Horn of Africa, 24 September 2011

HORN OF AFRICA CRISIS: EXPERTS BRIEFING FOR HUMANITARIAN WORKERS – ONE-DAY SEMINAR FOR ACADEMICS AND HUMANITARIAN/DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS, NAIROBI – 3 OCTOBER 2011

In the context of considerable pressure on humanitarian agencies to deliver, implement and show results in responding to the ongoing crisis in the Horn of Africa and the need to simultaneously learn from passed experiences in order to strengthen the coping mechanisms and livelihoods of pastoralist and agropastoralist communities, FAO and the United Nations Children's Fund are preparing a one-day seminar in support of developing responsible frameworks for the emergency response.

The objectives of this seminar are to: (i) make available background information on the political, economic, and social characteristics of the drought affected populations in northern Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia to development practitioners, including highlighting the “dos” and “don'ts” in this context in order to develop responsible frameworks for the ongoing humanitarian response; (ii) provide an insight into the severe effects of famine on social behaviours and its short- and long-term effects on affected populations; and (iii) share information, lessons learned and good practices to inform programming during the current crisis.