



FAO Somalia

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



**The Economic and Social Development Department (ES) and
the Technical Cooperation Department (TC)**
Seminar on:

Resilience-Based Programming in Somalia

13th December 2012

2:00-4:00 pm

Sheikh Zayed Centre – FAO-HQ Rome

Presenters:

Luca Alinovi, *Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator and Officer-in-Charge, FAO Somalia*

Mr. Ky Luu, *Executive Director Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy, Tulane University (USA)*

Mr. Dan Maxwell, *Associate Professor and Research Director Feinstein International Center Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University*

Mr. Jan Arthur Sienczewski, *Minister Counsellor Delegation of the European Union to the Holy See, to the Order of Malta and to the UN Agencies in Rome*

Chaired by:

Mr Kostas Stamoulis, *Director Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO*



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The new agenda on resilience

The concept of resilience is at the heart of debates in development, climate change adaptation and humanitarian aid. The recent regional drought crises in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa have brought about unprecedented interest in, and support for, the resilience agenda in terms of political support and actual financial commitments from major donors.

Enhancing “*Resilience*” means strengthening people’s ability to face future and recurrent shocks, i.e. enable those that are most at-risk to withstand shocks and broaden their abilities to adapt to a changing environment. Support to community and household resilience is seen as an effective programming approach in protracted crises countries that are characterized by both acute and chronic forms of food insecurity and limited institutional capacities to respond.

Resilience-based approaches are therefore considered to be especially relevant in improving people’s food and nutrition security and livelihoods contexts in fragile food insecure countries, where vulnerability to multiple threats/shocks - including drought and climate-related events but also conflict or insecurity is widespread - as they emphasize the need for longer-term, multisectoral, preventive commitments to better assist local communities in addressing multifaceted risks.

Issues and skepticisms with resilience-based approaches

The emerging consensus on resilience is tenuous and could well be losing steam. A number of analysts doubt that the approach is truly innovative, as they do not see how it can fundamentally address the relief-development paradigm, how it relates or must be related to economic growth, or how it differs from more traditional sustainable development approaches.

Observers also have difficulties seeing how resilience – a multifaceted and highly dynamic concept - can be effectively operationalized when the international community is only just starting to adjust its programmatic and funding frameworks to the needs of resilience-based approaches. There are also few ongoing programmes that comprehensively address resilience and hard evidence on their impact is scant.

The example of resilience-based programming in Somalia

Since early 2012, FAO Somalia, UNICEF Somalia and WFP Somalia have joined efforts to promote a medium-term strategy to enhance the resilience of households and communities in Somalia. Over the past few months, the three UN agencies have endeavoured to better align their objectives on local resilience outcomes, to adopt a longer term approach in their programmes, and to better coordinate interventions to promote inter-sectoral and integrated interventions on the field.

Together, the three agencies hope to leverage their operational capacity and comparative advantages to implement locally tailored packages of interventions which target the same households and bridge the nexus between different programmatic (relief, recovery, development) or sectoral (food security, nutrition, livelihood, social protection & basic services) approaches.