The Horn of Africa region is facing one of the driest years since 1950/51, causing a food crisis that has escalated into famine in parts of southern Somalia. At the end of July 2011, some 12.4 million people are in need of urgent assistance to not only save their lives, but also to recover their livelihoods, ensure their food security does not deteriorate further in the next six months, and start to build their resilience in order to mitigate the impact of future crises of this nature.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is seeking an additional USD 130 million to provide immediate support to drought-affected populations in the Horn of Africa and to strengthen the resilience of those in neighbouring countries facing high levels of food insecurity.

The crisis in the Horn of Africa is the most severe food security emergency in the world today. Immediate, generous and effective lifesaving and livelihood support are vital to assist some of the world’s most vulnerable populations and prevent the crisis from spilling over to neighbouring countries, many of which already face worrying food security conditions.

Lowest rainfall in 60 years

Following the complete failure of the October to December rains and related harvests, the 2011 March to May rains began late and performed erratically in many parts of the Horn of Africa. In some areas of northern Kenya and southern Somalia, rainfall was less than 30 percent of the 1995-2010 average. Throughout the region, households face crop failure and substantial livestock mortalities. Significant pasture and water shortages for
animals have placed unsustainable pressure on permanent water points and increased the risk of livestock disease outbreaks as larger numbers of animals are gathered in smaller areas.

In the first half of 2011, access to food across the Horn of Africa has and continues to decline. A marked increase in food prices in local markets since late 2010 has meant many cannot afford to meet their basic needs. A combination of poor crop production, the disruption of commodity flows from neighbouring countries, civil insecurity and movement restrictions have driven up prices at a time when households in the region are most vulnerable to food shortages – the lean season.

The situation is exacerbated by protracted conflict, which has forced millions of people to flee their homes, abandoning their land and livestock. There are currently over 4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and almost 1.4 million refugees in the Horn of Africa, mainly due to protracted and seasonal violence. The continued insecurity has, at the same time, limited humanitarian agencies’ access to those that most need assistance, deepening the crisis and forcing yet more people into displacement.

Some 12.4 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia now require urgent humanitarian assistance (areas in acute food and livelihood crisis – humanitarian phases 3, 4 and 5¹). Millions more people in neighbouring countries – Eritrea, Uganda, Sudan and the world’s newest country, South Sudan – also face a worrying food situation, which requires immediate attention to prevent the crisis from spreading further.

The situation is likely to further deteriorate in the coming months as most pastoral areas of Somalia and Kenya, as well as southern Ethiopia – that have been previously affected by the drought – are expected to rain dry until October when the next rainy season is likely to start. Unless immediate large-scale humanitarian interventions are forthcoming, food insecurity is predicted to remain at critical levels through the end of the year or even deteriorate in some areas, with high food prices and continued conflict still limiting access to food for most vulnerable households. In Somalia, harvesting of the 2011 Gu season crops is about to start and cereal production is early estimated well below average levels as a consequence of reduced planted area and yields.

Regarding the ongoing main agricultural season in western parts of the region, main cropping areas are expected to receive average to above-average rains until September, with higher precipitations – with some risks of localized floods – in western Ethiopia and southern Sudan. Based on these weather forecasts, the production of 2011 main season crops, to be harvested in October, is early forecast at average levels, but a close monitoring of the remaining rainy season is needed.

FAO is seeking USD 97 million to rebuild the livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of drought-affected populations. A further USD 33 million is required to support food insecure households in the Sudan and South Sudan. Most of the funding requirements are channelled through the Mid-Year Review (MYR) of the Consolidated Appeals Process/Humanitarian Appeals, launched in Geneva on 20 July 2011. The MYR highlighted the intensifying drought in the Horn of Africa and emphasized the need not just for immediate life-saving support to the drought-affected populations, but also for “longer-term recovery and disaster risk reduction in areas that are now experiencing increasingly frequent and devastating droughts in order to promote greater resilience and full recovery”.

Agriculture (crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry) is a core survival strategy in the Horn of Africa, and serves as the primary source of food and income for an estimated 80 percent of the region’s population.

Throughout the Horn of Africa, FAO has been assisting local populations and governments through activities that help improve their coping capacity in the face of shocks such as the current drought and build their longer-term food security. Today, funding is needed not just to ensure the immediate availability of food, but to help farmers return to their fields and herd ers to their animals so they can meet their household food needs over the next six months and into the future.

At the same time, the urgent humanitarian needs facing populations in the Sudan and in the newly independent South Sudan must not be ignored. Vulnerable households in both countries face continued food insecurity as a

¹ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) tool.
result of conflicts, large-scale population displacement, natural disasters (droughts and floods), and low agricultural productivity.

FAO is seeking funds to support the most vulnerable households in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda in order to:

• protect household and livestock assets;
• provide suitable farm inputs and equipment;
• support animal health through provision of drugs, vaccines, training of animal health staff (including community animal health workers);
• support vulnerable families with cash transfers to mitigate soaring food prices;
• prevent animal and plant diseases through surveillance and control;
• train farmers on improved dryland crop and livestock production systems;
• strengthen water management practices and capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to disasters; and
• invest in longer-term recovery to rebuild household livelihoods and strengthen their resilience.

FAO’s efforts will also focus on strengthening the capacity of national governments in the region to prepare for and respond to food security and agricultural crises. This would involve support to policy development at the national level, coordinated support to tackle regional issues (such as the drought and transboundary pests and diseases), and direct assistance to technical institutions, particularly at the local level (such as veterinary health and agricultural extension services).

FAO co-leads the Global Food Security Cluster with the World Food Programme (WFP), playing an important role in the coordination of humanitarian response in the food security sector. The Organization will continue to strengthen its efforts in this vital activity, not just in the immediate response to the drought situation, but to improve preparedness for future crises. At the regional and country levels, FAO has and will continue to support early warning systems through the roll out of the IPC and leadership of the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia. FAO co-chairs the regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, which serves as a platform to coordinate food security and nutrition situation analysis and improve informed response. In October 2010, the La Nina Task Force had already developed and widely circulated alerts to advocate for pre-emptive livelihoods support in anticipation of negative effects of la Nina for the East and Horn of Africa. Support for these activities must therefore be continued.
Djibouti

- Total population affected: 146,000 people
- FAO additional funding requirements: USD 4.74 million
- Priority needs: animal feed; veterinary support; access to potable water (for animals and humans); rehabilitated groundwater catchment facilities; small-scale irrigation.

Two consecutive failed seasons (2010/11 Heys/Dada and 2011 Diraac/Sougum) affecting the northwest and southeast border zones of Djibouti, coupled with soaring wheat flour prices, have dramatically increased the number of food insecure households.

The situation is likely to deteriorate, with 70 to 80 percent of cattle having been lost to disease and starvation in the past few years, a mean purchasing power of less than USD 0.68 per day per person, the increase of flour prices by 40 to 50 percent in most markets since May due to increasing international prices, and lesser quality milk production.

The livelihoods of Djibouti’s rural communities rely heavily on traditional livestock systems, in particular on goat and milk production as a main source of income. As pastoralist households (which make up the majority of rural dwellers) have been deprived of their principal means of subsistence because of lack of water, fodder and income, increasing pockets of malnutrition have been detected, as well as intensified rural-urban migration.

Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:

FAO is currently assisting some 23,000 households through improving small-scale irrigation, providing drought- and salinity-tolerant fodder seeds, organizing intensive training on appropriate dryland farming techniques adapted to local conditions, rehabilitating groundwater catchment facilities, conducting livestock vaccination campaigns, restocking livestock and promoting alternative income-generating activities. FAO is also leading the roll out of the IPC in Djibouti, facilitating the dissemination of information on the food security situation and coordinating activities in the food security and livelihoods sector.

FAO proposed additional assistance:

- Agricultural production, involving the construction of household fodder storage facilities; supporting the production of supplementary animal feed; promoting poultry production, particularly among women; diversifying agricultural production by providing drip irrigation technologies; training of trainers activities; and rehabilitation of small gardens for fodder and food production.

- Rehabilitating water points, including surface water catchment facilities and underground cisterns and implementing innovative water supply strategies through the creation of subsurface dams.

- Following up and monitoring IPC indicators in the context of disaster risk management for drought by monitoring food prices; collecting and analyzing information on the status of existing water points; mapping, producing and analyzing information on livestock migration; issuing alerts based on IPC indicators; and coordinating food security and livelihood response and preparedness activities in collaboration with the Government and other partners.

- Maintaining and protecting livestock populations by supporting veterinary campaigns, providing veterinary inputs to protect animal health and prevent the spread of diseases, and promoting and strengthening regional veterinary clinical diagnosis.
ERITREA

Each year, Eritrea is hit by either prolonged dry conditions or occasional floods, which have devastating impacts on crop and livestock production. The country is currently also affected by the drought conditions that have hit the rest of the Horn of Africa, with satellite imagery (from FAO’s Global Information and Early Warning System for Food and Agriculture) indicating another poor Azmera rainy season (March to May). The rains were delayed by four weeks, affecting the cropping cycle of the main crops (sorghum, millet and maize) and resulting in deteriorated pastures.

The most affected regions are Debub, Gash Barka and Anseba, although at present there is not sufficient information on the exact cropping area or number of animals impacted by the drought. The poor rainfall season is likely to have led to unusually low production levels, creating food insecurity among some rural households. It is, however, clear from the country’s cereal supply and demand balance sheet that the country faces a domestic cereal production deficit of 337,000 tonnes, which must be imported.

Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:

FAO is currently assisting some 12,500 households through support to livestock development, and crop production and intensification.

FAO proposed additional assistance:

FAO is ready to provide support to agropastoral households in the form of animal feed, vaccines, water supply and restocking, improved water management for irrigated farming, and coordination of response interventions.
ETHIOPIA

- Total population affected: 4.5 million people
- FAO additional funding requirements: USD 10.35 million
- Priority needs: commercial destocking; animal health care provision; rehabilitating livestock water points; pre-positioning crop seeds in time for next good rains.

The prolonged La Niña conditions affected a second consecutive rainy season, resulting in a deteriorating food security situation in drought-affected areas, as well as in the Belg-producing and Sugum-receiving parts of Ethiopia. Despite some belated rains in early May, the overall performance of the Belg (mid-February to May) and Gu/Ganna/Sugum (March to May) rains was largely poor, delayed, erratic and characterized by long dry spells. The adverse weather conditions disrupted agricultural activities, impacting on the planting period, area coverage and performance of Belg and long-cycle meher crops, including maize and sorghum. The late onset and irregular rain conditions forced farmers in some areas to undertake repeated planting. Critical pasture shortage affected pastoralists and agropastoralists during the first half of 2011 in the south and southeastern parts of the country, resulting in weak livestock body condition, low productivity of livestock and, in some areas, livestock mortality. Although rains later in the season contributed to pasture regeneration and the replenishment of water sources, the impact of this on livestock production is minimal and little milk is available for either consumption or sale.

Food insecurity is exacerbated by a critical shortage of crop seeds in crisis-affected and vulnerable crop producing and agropastoral areas, as well as poor livestock condition and disease outbreaks in pastoral and agropastoral areas as a result of shortage of water and feed and abnormal movement and high concentration of animals in relatively smaller areas, particularly around water points.

Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:

Provision of root and tuber planting materials and multiplication of improved varieties; slaughter destocking of livestock; providing emergency animal feed; supporting community-based forage production; developing the capacity of community animal health workers; contingency planning for upcoming floods; monitoring drought response activities and co-chairing the Government-led Agricultural Task Force.

FAO proposed additional assistance

Crisis-affected communities must be able to continue their farming activities and protect their livelihoods. FAO is therefore seeking over USD 10 million to implement immediate and short-term recovery activities in Ethiopia.

During the emergency phase (July to November 2011), core livestock breeding stock must be protected through a mixture of slaughter, livestock feed provision and animal health activities. FAO will promote cash-for-work programmes to maintain household purchasing power in the face of continued rising cereal prices. In addition, support will be provided for the production of fast-growing, high yielding and nutritious root and tuber crops and vegetables that can be easily produced in backyard gardens by women, the elderly and children. This will contribute to stabilizing and improving household nutrition.

During the recovery phase (December 2011 to December 2014), FAO will support the rebuilding of herds through animal health activities that focus on livestock vaccination and strengthening the community-based animal health care system. Rangeland management interventions will be undertaken to arrest and reverse years of rangeland degradation and increase the availability of pasture lands and therefore improve livestock productivity. In addition, FAO will support poor pastoralists who would prefer to move into non-livestock-based livelihoods to establish alternative sources of income. This will contribute to easing pressure on rangeland resources. In farming areas, emergency seed distributions will be carried out and support will be provided for crop diversification by distributing drought-tolerant roots and tubers, as well as vegetable seeds. Technical assistance will also be provided for the coordination of the agriculture sector and roll out of food security information systems, including the IPC.
The 2011 long rains have ended in all of Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands, culminating in the second or third successive poor or failed season in most parts of the rangelands and cropping lowlands. Many of these areas received 10 to 50 percent of normal rains. Areas reporting the largest deficits include northern and eastern pastoral districts, including Wajir, Marsabit, Isiolo, northern Garissa, northern Tana River and Mandera and the southeastern marginal districts of Kitui, Makueni, Mwingi and Tharaka. The findings of the KFSSG Long Rains mid-season assessment indicated that the pastoral, agropastoral and marginal agricultural areas of Kenya were in a state of crisis based on three to four successive rain failures. The assessment predicted a rapid deterioration in the situation throughout the dry season.

Kenya is still recovering from a severe drought in 2009, and is today facing the effects of another serious drought, which is affecting many parts of the Horn of Africa. It is estimated that livelihoods take five years to recover from a severe drought, meaning much of those currently affected by drought conditions are extremely vulnerable and unable to cope with the ongoing crisis. Late and erratic rainfall in 2011 has resulted in depleted pastures and poor crop production in the southeastern and coastal lowlands. Livestock body condition has deteriorated, reducing productivity, while the July 2011 harvest has been exceptionally poor, with complete crop failure in many areas. In major crop growing areas (Nyanza, Rift Valley and Western Provinces), the harvest later this year is expected to be favorable but will depend on the current rains continuing until September.

Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:

1. Preparedness activities, such as fodder production; support to the management of water harvesting structures; developing national capacity for appropriate response to livestock crises through training of Government, NGO and donor staff on the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards; improving access to livestock markets; improving milk hygiene and marketing; and carrying out animal disease surveillance and response.

2. Response interventions, including livestock off-take; emergency animal health activities; providing feed and water for livestock; implementing cash-for-work programmes for soil and water conservation; providing livestock (linked to a system of loans); and providing seeds and fertilizers for crop production.

FAO proposed additional assistance:

FAO is seeking USD 17 million to recover the livelihoods of drought-affected populations and resident households in areas with high numbers of refugees from Somalia. This will involve:

1. Livestock support: scaling up destocking for food and commercial livestock off-take in affected areas; supporting slaughter destocking if the situation deteriorates further; 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.

2. Crop production support: implementing voucher/cash/food-for-work activities to meet immediate needs and improve communities’ resilience and to support water harvesting, soil and water conservation, and promote small-scale irrigation through farmer field schools; and distributing farming inputs for use during the October to November short rains.
3. Following up and monitoring IPC indicators in the context of disaster risk management for drought by monitoring food prices; collecting and analyzing information on the status of existing water points; mapping, producing and analyzing information on livestock migration; issuing alerts based on IPC indicators; and coordinating food security and livelihood response and preparedness activities in collaboration with the Government and other partners.
Evidence of severely reduced food access, acute malnutrition, and crude mortality indicates that there is a famine in two areas of southern Somalia: the Bakool agropastoral livelihood zones and all areas of Lower Shabelle. A humanitarian emergency currently exists across all other regions of the south. Famine is expected to spread across all regions of the south in the coming two months. An immediate and large-scale response is needed; however, the window of opportunity for this is limited.

The current crisis is driven by a combination of factors. The total failure of the October to December Deyr rains (secondary season) and the poor performance of the April to June Gu rains (primary season) have resulted in crop failure, reduced labour demand, poor livestock body condition, and excess animal mortality. The resulting decline in cereal availability and ongoing trade restrictions have pushed local cereal prices to record levels and substantially reduced household purchasing power in all livelihood zones. Large-scale displacement and limitations on humanitarian access have exacerbated the situation. The crisis in southern Somalia is expected to worsen in the coming months, with all areas of the south slipping into famine, unless levels of humanitarian response increase significantly.

The January 2011 harvest failed throughout the agricultural regions in the south and the outlook for the next harvest in August is not much better. At best, 50% of post-conflict production average is expected and crop failure in some regions is predicted. Depleted vegetation in pastures, the exhaustion of feed reserves and dwindling water resources have also led to widespread livestock losses and forced many herders to sell their livestock below normal market prices, while cereal prices are still rising.

Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:
Rehabilitating essential irrigation infrastructure and roads; supplying inputs to farmers; supporting the multiplication and distribution of quality seeds; improving agricultural practices and storage techniques; strengthening animal disease surveillance, treatment and control; cash-for-work schemes; support to fisheries and coastal communities, and information systems for food security, nutrition, water and land, such as the FSNAU and SWALIM. Moreover, FAO is increasingly working to build capacities inside regional Government structures.

FAO proposed additional assistance:
FAO is seeking USD 58 million to assist 900 000 farmers and herders who have lost their crops and livestock as a result of drought. These assets constitute the sole source of income and primary basis for household food security for these families. FAO is seeking to support Somalia’s most vulnerable population to restore food production and safeguard their livelihoods. Protecting the asset base of herders and assisting farmers to resume planting in time for the upcoming season will be paramount to recover the food security and nutritional status of the most drought-affected farmers. In addition, support must be provided to the continued work of the FSNAU, as well as coordinating interventions and providing technical support to partners. FAO’s activities aim to:

- Restore crop production by distributing agricultural inputs to 750 000 people in time for the upcoming planting season.
- Safeguard the livelihoods and remaining assets of vulnerable, small-scale herders by providing animal feed to avert the starvation and sale of livestock, and providing emergency treatment and vaccination to 42 million animals to prevent drought-related diseases.
- Put cash at the disposal of 870 000 vulnerable people, enabling them to buy food through cash-for-work activities that also contribute to building their resilience by rehabilitating productive infrastructure.
SUDAN

• FAO additional funding requirements: USD 21 million

• Priority needs: providing crop and livestock production inputs for displaced and returning populations in South Kordofan, Abyei, Darfur and the Three Transitional Areas; strengthening preparedness and response to crises; restoring and protecting the environment; coordinating food security and livelihood interventions.

The situation in South Kordofan remains tense since the outbreak of violence in early June. The fighting disrupted the activities of humanitarian agencies in the area, as well as of local populations, forcing many to flee and abandon their homes and livelihoods. The timing of the violence is of particular concern as: (i) it is the peak agricultural season, during which people plant their crops to meet their annual food needs; and (ii) it is a lean period, when there is insufficient food availability and greater reliance on humanitarian assistance. Farming has been disrupted, affecting other activities, such as markets and limiting communities’ access to food. The existing food insecurity has been further exacerbated by the blockage of commodities.

The current socio-political crisis in the Abyei area is exacerbating the fragile food security situation and has serious implications for household food security, particularly in Agok area and Twic county in Warrap state. Vulnerability linked to blockade of community supply routes from North Sudan which have disrupted or closed markets; population displacement and the subsequent destruction or abandonment of available food supplies and loss of livelihood assets; insecurity limiting access to cultivation and livestock grazing areas; and the large number of returnees and vulnerable resident communities facing food insecurity in the lean season. The crisis has hit at the onset of the agricultural season and is likely to worsen as rains rendered key access roads inaccessible, further reducing food availability.

The Greater Darfur area continues to be affected by insecurity and instability, with ongoing conflict between various armed groups constraining livelihood options. IDPs residing in camps and resident households face particularly severe constraints to their livelihoods as a result of ongoing insecurity. Unsustainable livelihood coping strategies have been adopted (such as cutting trees for firewood and charcoal production) are a serious threat to the already strained natural resource base. As a result, many households are food insecure, malnutrition levels are high, food production levels are low and relatively undiversified and access to veterinary services is poor.

Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:

1. Emergency activities: distributing crop and vegetable seeds, and agricultural tools; promoting local seed production; training in improved farming practices; safeguarding the livelihood assets of herders and fishers; promoting sustainable natural resource management; and coordinating the Food Security and Livelihoods Sector.

2. Recovery/development activities: supporting institutional capacity development and sustainable livelihoods for long-term food security.

FAO proposed additional assistance:

FAO is seeking USD 20.9 million for the following interventions:

1. Crop production: distribution of crop and vegetable seeds, agricultural tools, and animal-drawn implements; promotion of local seed production; and training in improved farming practices;

2. Livestock and fisheries production: improved livestock disease surveillance; vaccination campaigns; training of community animal health workers and establishment of veterinary community centres; distributing fishing kits; supporting boat-building and net-braiding; and organizing training on sustainable fishing practices;
3. Sustainable resource management: establishing nurseries; promoting the construction and use of fuel-efficient stoves; setting up fodder banks; and promoting community-based negotiation and mediation mechanisms to address natural resource management and land use;

4. Coordinating the Food Security and Livelihoods Sector.
South Sudan

- FAO additional funding requirements: USD 12 million
- Priority needs: improving production practices; expanding the area under production; building local seed production capacity; preventing natural resource-based conflicts; providing inputs for agriculture and livestock production; strengthening national and local food security institutions and policies

Drought, conflict and food crises in parts of the Horn of Africa have raised concerns about the impact on the already fragile food security and livelihood situation in South Sudan. Over the last ten years, close to 2 million people have been food insecure, while rates of global acute malnutrition remain chronically above emergency thresholds. Food insecurity in South Sudan today is largely due to a combination of conflict, displacement, low levels of food production and rising food prices.

The Horn of Africa and South Sudan have different agricultural seasons, with that in the Horn ranging from March to May and that in South Sudan ranging from April/May to December/January. While there is no direct correlation between the drought in the Horn of Africa and the rainy season in South Sudan, the current progress of the rains in South Sudan is of great concern. Rainfall has been erratic, with prolonged dry spells reported mainly in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal and Warrap states. Over the last two months, the rainfall situation has been increasingly poor, and severe crop wilting has been reported. This will significantly affect the amount of food to be produced this year and pasture conditions in the country.

If the current rainfall pattern continues, the production of key staples (maize and sorghum) will be negatively affected, increasing the threat of food insecurity. Pasture conditions will remain depleted, forcing herders to migrate with their livestock in search of grazing and potentially leading to conflicts over resources, as well as further cattle raiding.

The effects of the drought in the Horn of Africa are most likely to be felt along the border areas of Jonglei in the form of reduced commodity flows from Ethiopia. Food prices remain high and supplies of basic food on the market remain seriously low. This is severely straining people’s resilience and exhausting the coping strategies of the poorest households. The current situation may be a slow onset humanitarian crisis. It is critical that steps be taken immediately to build households’ resilience, protect their productive assets and reduce the scale of dependence on emergency assistance.

Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:

Supplying inputs to IDPs and returnees, promoting community-based seed production, improving nutrition and income at the household level, reducing food imports, ensuring local quality seed availability, and coordinating the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster.

FAO proposed additional assistance:

FAO is seeking USD 12 million to assist the most vulnerable populations through:

1. Livelihood support 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.

2. Preventing livestock disease outbreaks and promoting alternative food production activities by providing fishing equipment, treating livestock for common diseases (East Coast fever, anthrax, Foot-and-Mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, etc.) and rehabilitating cold chain facilities.

3. Enhancing the coordination of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster through coordinated food security assessments, and planning and programming.
UGANDA

• Total population affected: 600 000 people
  (in northern Uganda and Karamoja region)

• FAO additional funding requirements: USD 6 million

• Priority needs: livestock drugs and vaccines; cold chain facilities;
  strengthened laboratory and diagnostic services;
  support to veterinary field services.

Overall, the country is considered food secure following good aggregate cereal production in 2010 and forecast
favourable production in most of the country in 2011. Pockets of chronic food insecurity continue to exist,
particularly in northern parts of the country. In 2011, the main threats to food security include outbreaks of animal
diseases (including contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and Foot-and-Mouth Disease), transboundary crop
diseases affecting staple crops (cassava and banana), and natural disasters. An estimated 600 000 people are
characterized as moderately food insecure, mainly in Karamoja and Acholi subregions, with the possibility that this
number could rise if the rains that have started late recede again.

The drought crisis affecting much of the Horn of Africa has a moderate and localized impact in parts of Karamoja
and Acholi subregions. Late rains and delayed planting of crops in these subregions are likely to result in delayed
harvests in September 2011, thus lengthening the lean period. While good rains at the start of the season (in
March) contributed to improved pasture conditions, and therefore to better livestock body condition, an outbreak
of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in February has closed livestock markets and disrupted livelihoods in Nakapiripirit and
Amudat districts.

Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:

• building the capacity of resettling farming communities in northern Uganda through farmer field schools;
• supporting the multiplication and dissemination of disease-tolerant cassava and sweet potato planting
  materials;
• rehabilitating productive rural infrastructure (e.g. feeder roads, markets, water structures);
• promoting rural agribusiness (village savings and loans schemes, etc.);
• providing basic agricultural input kits during emergencies;
• supporting pastoral livelihoods in Karamoja through agropastoral field schools;
• supporting animal health service provision (vaccination, training community animal health workers);
• undertaking seed and livestock trade fairs;
• supporting the roll out of the IPC; and
• coordinating the food security and livelihood interventions of all actors.

FAO proposed additional assistance:

FAO’s programmes in Uganda strive to address the immediate needs of pastoralists in the context of a broader
approach to climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and strengthening resilience and mitigation
strategies at the community and household levels.

FAO is seeking USD 6 million for emergency interventions that will include providing veterinary drugs and vaccines
to protect livestock health; strengthening laboratory and diagnostic services; and supporting the community animal
health worker network. The main proposed activities seek to support the recovery of agricultural livelihoods and
build the resilience of communities in Karamoja to address the root causes of disasters and mitigate their impact. In
addition, continued support will be provided to the roll out and monitoring of IPC indicators in Uganda, as well as
to coordination of the food security and livelihoods interventions of all actors in collaboration with the
Government.
Successive droughts in the Horn of Africa have resulted in low production and severely diminished coping capacities among rural households. The impact of a La Niña episode in early 2011 led to poor and erratic rainfall in many countries within the Greater Horn of Africa, causing massive population displacements in Somalia and resulting in poor harvests, rising levels of livestock mortality and severe food insecurity across the region. The situation has been worsened by generally elevated food prices, resulting in over 10 million people being in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

At the same time, continued conflicts in much of the region (Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan) has led to large-scale population movements within and across borders, reducing households’ ability to produce food and generate income.

**Ongoing emergency and rehabilitation programme:**

Under the regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, the FAO Regional Emergency Office for Eastern and Central Africa, in close collaboration with the FAO Subregional Office for East Africa, has been supporting the coordination of early warning such as five La Niña alerts issued since November 2010), situation analysis and sharing of best practices with stakeholders and governments.

FAO is now coordinating ongoing drought-related food security and nutrition interventions at the regional, national and community levels in partnership with government institutions, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other United Nations (UN) agencies.

Main activities: co-chair, with IGAD, of the FSNWG, supporting the roll out of the IPC tool at country levels; mitigating cassava diseases through a regional approach; supporting agropastoral populations and coordinating drought risk management-related activities, and supporting gender/HIV/farmer field school approaches.

**FAO proposed additional assistance:**

FAO is seeking USD 1 million in order to:

- Improve its coordination with the World Food Programme, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union to step up emergency response and with the International Fund for Agricultural Development for longer-term response.

- Support regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG), other platforms and the La Niña Task Force, which have played a vital role in highlighting and monitoring the current food crisis in the Horn of Africa.

- Ensure regional coordination activities are conducted in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee 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.
The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group

The FSNWG is a regional interagency platform facilitated by FAO to coordinate food security and nutrition situation analysis and improve informed response. In October 2010, the La Nina Task Force had already developed and widely circulated alerts to advocate for pre-emptive livelihoods support in anticipation of negative effects of La Nina for the East and Horn of Africa. The FSNWG also disseminated technical advice on possible interventions, best practices and lessons learned from previous responses, to ensure the quality, appropriateness and sustainability of coordinated responses.

Under the regional FSNWG, the FAO Subregional Emergency Office for Eastern and Central Africa has been compiling monthly bulletins that are disseminated to different stakeholders in the region (NGOs, UN agencies, government institutions and IGAD). As NGOs and government ministries operate at the farm-level, they further relay messages to farmers and pastoralists for community awareness and response.

The FSNWG also presents monthly key findings and messages to the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (IASC at regional level). In the last RHPT, the FSNWG advocated for inclusion of early recovery in response plan, for high level advocacy towards development donors to create flexible funding to anticipate crisis instead of waiting for emergency donors to step in when lifesaving interventions are at stake, and to avoid using the disaster risk reduction budget to respond to the current crisis.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

The IPC is an approach for classifying the nature and severity of food insecurity. The IPC is a standardized scale that integrates food security, nutrition and livelihood information into a clear statement about the nature and severity of a crisis and implications for its response. The IPC is an increasingly appreciated tool for evidence-based food security situation analysis within the framework of a regional or country-level coordination mechanism. Through the IPC, operational maps are generated, which present the food security situation along with its immediate and underlying causes. The IPC maps also provide early warning information and project trends, so planners can act before the situation deteriorate.

To-date, the IPC roll-out in Eastern and Central Africa has produced country maps for Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, North Sudan, South Sudan, Burundi, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and it has started in SNNPR, Ethiopia. A regional map for the Central Africa and the Greater Horn of Africa has been developed and is regularly updated.

FAO’s Subregional Emergency Office for Central and Eastern Africa assists those African countries that are implementing or initiating the IPC process beyond the duration of the specific IPC projects funded by other donors. The information from the IPC is used by governments, UN agencies and humanitarian actors to inform decision-making and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian aid which ultimately allows for greater accountability to donors.

The farmer field school (FFS)

The FFS, commonly known as the school without walls, is a methodology that provides a well-structured participatory learning process based on certain basic principles yet at the same time flexible and adaptable to local situations and contexts. An FFS consists of a group of farmers or youths that get together on a regular basis to learn about a shared common interest—often a problem. Each group comprises 20 to 30 members. The group members meet regularly (usually weekly) throughout one agricultural season. In order to ensure participation by all the group works in small sub-groups during the learning sessions. The members experiment, observe, analyse, present and discuss their findings with the other group members. Certain inbuilt features in the process are there to
enhance group cohesion and sense of belonging, something particularly valuable in post-conflict contexts. Results from the programme show that the approach provides an excellent platform for the transition from emergency to recovery and normal life especially among women and vulnerable groups and has demonstrated significant impact in terms of both agricultural productivity and empowerment especially among women and people of low literacy levels.

The Pastoral Field School (PFS)

The PFS is an adaptation of the FFS methodology to the pastoral context and is used in the agropastoral context. PFS provide an excellent entry point for improved livelihoods among pastoral communities and have been an innovative step towards a more participatory and beneficiary-driven support system. The main impacts of the PFS have included uptake of improved technology options especially related to animal (sheep, goats and cattle) health, feeding and management and to a lesser extent alternative livelihood options such as crop farming, poultry, etc. PFS have also contributed to empowerment especially among women including increasing their self-confidence, group cohesion and a collective spirit. In its application, the PFS concept contributes to improved livelihoods of the pastoral communities through creating unity, poverty reduction and strengthening of pastoral institutions thus leading to improved preparedness and reduced vulnerability to drought and other crises like flooding, etc. The PFS approach empowers pastoral communities to improve their livelihoods strategy so that they can better cope with and withstand the effects of shocks.

Cassava

Through the regional cassava project, FAO is helping to restore cassava yields in Eastern and Central Africa by reinforcing the capacity of the most food insecure subsistence farmers to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to cassava-related diseases in the region. More than 500 000 of the most vulnerable people are targeted with a potential ‘snow-ball’ effect to reach another 4 million individuals benefiting from the introduction of vegetative planting materials resistant and/or tolerant to both cassava mosaic disease and cassava brown streak disease. To strengthen resilience and improve preparedness for acute outbreaks, the project has built capacity at local and national levels in surveillance and disease identification and in managing quality protocols. Mechanisms have been put in place for coordination and regulation through the establishment of National Cassava Coordination Platforms, which are increasingly involved in awareness raising and discussion with national partners on the need for concerted and coordinated action. The impact of this project is seen through increased awareness of value addition through product transformation and local/regional trade and reduced prices for this vital crop.

Cash-for-work activities

Over the past four years, FAO Somalia has been rehabilitating productive infrastructures (secondary canals, river embankments, water catchments, feeder roads, etc.) through cash-for-work interventions. This approach serves the double purpose of pumping in much needed cash relief to the most affected communities, and at the same time increasing their resilience to natural shocks, mainly drought. The infrastructure rehabilitated under these schemes has a long-lasting benefit, allowing communities to increase their productivity, thus reducing their vulnerability. i.e. from 2010 to date some 50 000 households have received a total of USD 4 500 000 (an average of USD 90 per person for one month employment), resulting in the rehabilitation of some 1 057 km of canals, 305 km of feeder roads, and 80 water catchments (increasing water availability for animal for a total of 231 610 m³).

Agricultural inputs distribution

FAO-Somalia has been implementing a seeds system development project in Somalia since 2005. As result of great efforts, 2 commercially-oriented seeds enterprises (COSE) have been established and fully empowered for the production of certified seeds (maize and sesame). The COSE have been supported by FAO, in full collaboration
with different CG centres (ICRISAT, CYMMIT, etc.) for the identification and testing of the most appropriate open pollinated varieties. As of today, over 60 varieties have been tested and 5 were selected for mass multiplication. FAO-Somalia is now in a position of distributing (during the emergency) better quality seeds locally produced, and proven to have better yielding in the stressful climatically condition of Somalia. The use of this better varieties, results in an average 50 percent increase in yield at the household level. As of today, 1 280 tonnes of improved maize varieties have been distributed (WS303, WSQ 104 and Somtux) to some 51 000 farming households, resulting in 50 000 ha planted for a total production of 125 000 tonnes of cereals.

**Control act/code**

In an effort to improve the terms of trade as well as the competitiveness of Somali products, FAO Somalia has supported the development of appropriate policy measures, regulatory frameworks as well as standard operating procedures. Among the documents approved by the Council of Ministers and currently under discussion in parliament are the Meat Inspection and Control Bill and the Meat Inspection Code. This has significantly lowered the rejection rates of exports from external markets by 30 percent, and led to reopening of the Saudi market for meat in 2009.

**Certification system**

As certification and quality assurance system (QAS) for meat certification are brought to bear, FAO Somalia is also identifying critical areas for investment along the market value chain, trade, marketing, capital market development and regulatory reforms that can facilitate the integration of small-scale producers in domestic, regional and global markets for livestock in a sustainable manner. This will help to increase and diversify the incomes of small-scale producers in the long-run. The partnerships with credible universities is helping ensure at least minimal standards for certification are developed.

**Improved processing (SH)**

In improvement of slaughter house infrastructure as well as linking it along a vertical marketing value chain, FAO Somalia is providing unique opportunities for improving livelihoods and linked to that, improving stewardship of the environment. This cannot be a passive process and needs to be supported by enabling policies and pro-poor investments in institutional capacities and technologies (See above). Sustaining intensification of smallholder livestock systems by linking them to modern slaughterhouses that take into account both social and environmental welfare issues and targets the sectors and areas of most probable positive social welfare returns. Smallholders using the available family labour and the ability of ruminants to exploit lower quality available roughage ensure a consistent push effect to strategically located slaughter facilities. The establishment of ancillary value addition services (hides and skins and well as offal sales) around the slaughterhouses help provide additional jobs, income and greater.

**Vaccination and treatment**

FAO Somalia in addressing links to output markets also applies risk mitigation measures (Treatments and vaccinations) that are important if they are to provide higher value products. Innovative public support and links to the private sector will be required for the poor to adapt and benefit as systems evolve. Likewise targeting is critical to choosing which systems with livestock can be supported.