SOMALIA STATUS REPORT  
31 January 2006

FAO has received a total of US$1,391,604 for tsunami relief in Somalia from the Governments of Norway and Trinidad and Tobago as well as from private sources such as the Italian private supermarket company CONAD and the Church of God in Christ COGIC, an Afro-American religious organization. The Government of Germany (BMVEL) has recently signed a project document to provide additional resources (€114,000) and it is expected that the Standard Bank of South Africa (SBS) will do the same in February 2006. The World Food Programme has recently also made available US$ 900,000 received from the Government of Italy for the support of vulnerable households in the Puntland region. Activities are directly benefiting more than 2,000 fishers in 28 villages along the Indian Ocean coast. Indirect beneficiaries include an estimated 20,000 shore workers, traders and family members in these fishing communities.

Funds received so far have been used to:

- procure approximately US$603,000 worth of fishing gear and boats for the affected communities to replace those lost – at the request of local authorities, larger, improved boats are being procured to “build back better” in a way which facilitates preservation of the most fragile resources close to the shore; the boats are being manufactured locally, providing needed employment;
- carry out training programmes for fishers, focusing on fish handling and processing as well as the environment and the management of marine resources – critical in circumstances where post harvest losses are as high as 50-70% - and for mechanics in boat engine repair, essential to ensure sustained performance of the fishing fleet;
- prepare a Fisheries Association Statutes template, which has been used by four district associations recently established with the assistance of FAO, whose legal status has been officially recognized by local authorities – these associations will be fully involved in distribution of the boats and gear to their members and take charge of revolving funds for the maintenance of the fishers’ equipment and further investments;
- carry out assessments to obtain a more precise idea of damage caused by the tsunami, not only in the worst affected northeastern part of the country, but also in the centre and south of Somalia;
- identify suitable locations for installation of ice-making machines, critical for the preservation of fish and reduction of post harvest losses.

FAO works closely with the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA), established by the Puntland authorities as a governmental body responsible for the overall coordination of the post Tsunami Interventions.

While the on going procurement actions are aimed at the relief of the fishers, a major recovery effort is underway to bring the region back to and beyond its pre-tsunami condition and to help achieve longer-term development objectives, the new WFP contribution will be instrumental to this end. Further activities under consideration focus on fish handling and processing and marketing.