

SOMALIA STATUS REPORT 31 MARCH 2006

FAO has received a total of US\$3.1 million for tsunami relief in Somalia from the Governments of Norway and Germany (BMVEL) and Trinidad and Tobago (through OCHA) as well as from private sources such as the Italian private supermarket company CONAD, the Church of God in Christ COGIC, an Afro-American religious organization, and the Standard Bank of South Africa (SBS). Recently, the World Food Programme has also made available funds received from the Government of Italy for the support of vulnerable households in the Puntland region and UNICEF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with FAO for the use of funds received from the Norwegian government. Activities are directly benefiting more than 2 000 small-scale fishermen in 34 coastal villages along the Indian Ocean. 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 GRP 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”; the boats are being manufactured locally, providing needed employment;
- launch the procurement of four seawater flake ice plants to improve seafood handling on board and on shore, as well as the design of small-scale facilities to house the flake ice plants at village-level, thus promoting the reduction of post-harvest losses. In addition, were designed and constructed locally-made insulated fish containers to fit into the existing small-scale fishing boats, which should promote improved on board seafood handling techniques and better quality fish shall be available for marketing operations.
- procure and organize the distribution of fishing gear from the 21 to 25 April, 2006: a total of 1154 fishing gear kits (comprising gillnets, lobster traps, fishing lines & hooks, and gillnet mending materials) will be distributed to small-scale fishermen in the affected areas.
- carry out training programmes for fishermen, focusing on fish handling and processing, critical in circumstances where post harvest losses are as high as 50-70% and for mechanics in boat engine repair, to ensure sustained performance of the fishing fleet.

The whole programme is coordinated by an FAO Chief Technical Advisor, fish processing and marketing specialist.

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 fishermen, 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 and UNICEF contributions will be instrumental to this end.