



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities

# SFERA



ANNUAL REPORT  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA)** enables the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to take rapid and effective action in response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

The Fund has three components:

**(i) a working capital component** to advance funds once a donor's commitment is secured toward the immediate procurement of inputs to protect livelihoods, restart agricultural activities or contribute to an immediate response to a crisis;

**(ii) a revolving fund component** to support FAO's involvement in needs assessment, programme development, early establishment and reinforcement of emergency country team capacities, as well as Level 3 emergency preparedness and response activities; and

**(iii) a programme component**, which pools resources in support of a programme framework for large-scale emergencies.

From its inception in April 2004 through 31 December 2014, SFERA received USD 183.7 million, of which USD 75.3 million was allocated to large scale programmes (e.g. typhoons, hurricanes, Sahel, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and locust plagues); USD 26.9 million was disbursed under the Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) window; USD 15.0 million was used to set-up or reinforce Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Units and implement needs assessment and programme formulation missions; and USD 3.2 million was allocated to establishing a Level 3 emergency preparedness and response window. Since inception, USD 267.4 million has been advanced to fund immediate emergency needs, USD 22.9 million of which was advanced over the reporting period. As at 31 December 2014, outstanding advances totalled USD 0.9 million, while the total SFERA cash balance was USD 46.3 million.

## I. BACKGROUND

During its Hundred and Second Session in May 2003, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) Finance Committee supported the creation of the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA), with the purpose to "...enable the Organization to rapidly initiate emergency operations by participating in interagency needs assessment and coordination activities, establishing an emergency coordination unit, preparing a programme framework and projects, and providing advance funding for procurement of inputs when donor commitment has been obtained."<sup>1</sup>

This annual report provides a brief description of the major operations initiated with SFERA funds for the twelve-month period ending 31 December 2014. The report also contains financial data for this period, as well as for the eleven years since the Fund became operational.

## II. SFERA SET-UP

SFERA has three components:

**(i) a working capital component** to advance funds, once a donor's commitment is secured, toward the immediate procurement of inputs to protect livelihoods and restart agricultural activities;

**(ii) a revolving fund component** to support FAO's involvement in needs assessment, programme development, early establishment and reinforcement of emergency country team capacities, as well as Level 3 emergency<sup>2</sup> preparedness and response activities; and

**(iii) a programme component** to support work on specific large-scale emergency programmes, or the immediate procurement and delivery of time-critical inputs through the Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) window.

Table 1. SFERA components and windows		
Working capital component	Revolving fund component	Programme component
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency coordination window</li><li>• Needs assessment and programme development window</li><li>• Level 3 Emergency preparedness and response window</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large-scale programme window (e.g. typhoons and hurricanes, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, locust, Horn of Africa, Sahel)</li><li>• Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity window</li></ul>

**The working capital component** reduces the reaction time to emergencies by enabling FAO to initiate activities and purchase the most critical assets before committed donor funding is received. By enabling a rapid response, this component helps to mitigate the impact of threats and emergencies, and hasten the recovery of those affected.

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2 Sudden onset, large-scale disasters and crises that require a corporate response.

**The revolving fund component** supports the efforts of FAO’s emergency country teams to identify the most critical needs of affected populations, to strengthen response capacity, and to develop and coordinate technically sound response programmes. Through the Level 3 emergency preparedness and response window, FAO can meet the extraordinary challenges facing the agriculture sector during a Level 3 emergency.

**The programme component** facilitates faster and more programmatic assistance that can be tailored to evolving needs on the ground. SFERA’s pooled funding approach provides the flexibility to adjust activities and support according to the geographical and thematic areas of greatest need. Likewise, the programme approach enables operations to adapt as the situation evolves, streamlining activities to ensure the most appropriate assistance reaches affected populations sooner. The programme component also includes the AIRC window, which channels pooled funds towards the immediate procurement and delivery of time-critical inputs.

### III. SFERA RESOURCES

**Receipts** – Since SFERA’s inception in April 2004, the Fund has received a total of USD 183.7 million. Of this amount, USD 130.7 million was provided by the member countries listed in Table 2, including USD 6.4 million from resource partners<sup>3</sup> that agreed to transfer the balances of closed emergency projects to SFERA. During the 12 months up to 31 December 2014, deposits to SFERA totalled USD 23.3 million.

**Table 2. SFERA funding receipts**

CONTRIBUTORS	12 months to 31 December 2014 (USD 000)	From inception through 31 December 2014 (USD 000)
Belgium	8 891	34 907
Norway	5 036	26 277
Sweden	-	23 659
United Kingdom	-	9 339
France	842	8 605
Finland	42	7 471
Canada	6 395	7 225
Switzerland	1 096	4 893
Italy	-	1 456
Saudi Arabia	-	1 375
Germany	-	1 304

3 Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Luxembourg, Mexico, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Peru, Monaco, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Austria	-	1 125
Ireland	681	998
Spain	2	520
China	-	500
South Africa	257	452
Greece	-	227
Australia	-	107
Jordan	-	60
Monaco	-	59
Kuwait	50	50
Online donations	31	31
Netherlands	-	21
Laos	-	14
New Zealand	-	13
Luxembourg	-	8
Chile	-	5
Other members	-	3
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>23 323</b>	<b>130 706</b>
OPEC fund	-	481
World Bank	-	21
Others including from emergency project support costs reimbursements	767	52 458
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>24 090</b>	<b>183 665</b>

*As at 31 December 2014. Source: compiled from subsidiary records.*

#### IV. USE OF SFERA FUNDS

Under the working capital component, USD 267.4 million was advanced to projects after donors' commitment, but before receiving the cash contributions. Of this amount, USD 0.9 million remains outstanding, pending receipt of donor funds.

Of the USD 183.7 million contributed, USD 18.3 million was approved under the revolving fund component (USD 3.6 million during the reporting period). A total of USD 118.2 million was allocated under the programme component, of which USD 26.4 million was provided during the reporting period. These funding contributions are outlined in Table 3.

**Table 3. Funding components**

	12 months to 31 December 2014 (USD 000)	Since inception (USD 000)
<b>ADVANCES</b>		
<b>Working capital component</b>		
Total advances made during the period	22 921	267 383
Refunds on advances paid during the period	32 254	266 440
<b>Outstanding advances</b>		<b>943</b>
<b>APPLICATIONS</b>		
<b>Revolving Fund component</b>		
Country emergency capacity set-up and reinforcement	1 000	9 250
Needs assessment and programme development support	2 503	5 753
Level 3 emergency preparedness and response	47	3 247
<b>Total revolving fund component</b>	<b>3 550</b>	<b>18 250</b>
<b>Programme component</b>		
Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC)	7 625	26 896
Avian influenza campaign	-	45 928
Regional programmes (Horn of Africa)	2 606	13 539
Typhoon and hurricanes	13 031	13 031
Tsunami campaign	-	10 002
Locust campaigns	678	4 982
Regional programmes (Sahel)	2 447	2 642
Initiative on Soaring Food Prices	-	1 168
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME COMPONENT</b>	<b>26 388</b>	<b>118 189</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>29 938</b>	<b>136 439</b>

As at 31 December 2014. Source: compiled from subsidiary records.

As of 31 December 2014, SFERA's cash balance was USD 46.3 million<sup>4</sup>, calculated as follows: cumulative receipts of USD 183.7 million, less applications of USD 136.4 million, less outstanding advances of USD 0.9 million.

4 Of which USD 39.9 million refers to the capital balance of the fund and USD 6.4 million refers to the balance of separate accounts established to monitor and report the programme component of the fund.

## A. WORKING CAPITAL COMPONENT

**Advances** – During the reporting period, 90 percent of SFERA advances were received from five resource partners, as shown in the following table.

<b>Table 4. SFERA advances from resource partners</b>		
<b>RESOURCE PARTNER</b>	<b>Advances (USD 000)</b>	<b>Refunds (USD 000)</b>
United States of America	8 583	9 383
United Kingdom	6 500	6 500
World Bank	2 043	2 043
Denmark	1 900	1 900
Common Fund for Humanitarian Action in Sudan	1 500	1 500
Norway	750	2 250
Multiple donors	512	438
Italy	428	480
Germany	300	415
Belgium	169	664
Brazil	150	280
WFP	86	86
European Community	-	4 000
Ireland	-	400
Madagascar	-	300
Peacebuilding Fund	-	500
Sweden	-	415
Switzerland	-	700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22 921</b>	<b>32 254</b>

Advances mainly supported major country programmes in four countries, (i.e. South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad and Sudan), representing nearly 82 percent of all advances between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014.

**Table 5. SFERA advances for country programmes**

<b>COUNTRIES</b>	<b>Advances (USD 000)</b>	<b>Refunds (USD 000)</b>
South Sudan	11 750	11 950
Central African Republic	3 487	3 487
Chad	2 543	2 543
Sudan	1 069	1 069
Regional Africa	911	1 406
Haiti	636	766
Niger	558	1 373
Syria	428	480
Mauritania	319	319
Global	300	541
Yemen	250	250
Mali	230	230
West Bank and Gaza Strip	200	200
Ethiopia	140	140
Afghanistan	100	100
Guinea-Bissau	-	500
Madagascar	-	4 300
Philippines	-	2 600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22 921</b>	<b>32 254</b>

SFERA advances enabled FAO to address Food Security and Livelihood Cluster priorities in **South Sudan**, strengthening coordination, vulnerability analysis and advocacy for food security and livelihood response planning and interventions. These advances were critical to the timely procurement of seeds, vaccines and fishing equipment. Programme activities supported female-headed and vulnerable female households to improve household production and diversify income generating opportunities, including nutrient-dense vegetable gardens, small animal breeding and fishing.

In **Central African Republic**, SFERA advances provided livelihood support to conflict-affected households that suffered a significant loss of productive assets during the 2013 farming season. Following an improved analysis of food security needs, Food Security Cluster partners initiated a rapid, coordinated response, providing essential agriculture inputs (e.g. planting materials and tools) and basic training to the most affected households. The resilience of women was improved through the establishment of saving and loan groups which provided training opportunities and financial support to implement sustainable agricultural practices.



In **Chad**, SFERA provided immediate funding to support FAO participation in essential cluster coordination activities and needs based interventions to strengthen the resilience of agro-pastoral communities in the semi-arid areas of Bahr el Gazal and in the conflict affected areas of Southern Chad. Vulnerable households, with a particular emphasis on women, received agricultural inputs and training on sustainable vegetable and livestock production and marketing in order to protect, enhance and diversify their income and assets. Specific animal health support including vaccination and deworming activities minimized the risk of livestock loss.

In **Sudan**, through SFERA funding, FAO provided the most vulnerable households in Abyie, Kordofan, Blue Nile States and Darfur region with improved inputs, services and training to strengthen legume and vegetable production and productivity. Vulnerable pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households received animal health support resulting in improved livestock protection and production. These activities enabled vulnerable farmer and herder families to cover their basic food needs, improve their nutritional status and become more self-reliant while building livelihoods capacity to cope with future emergencies and shocks.

## B. REVOLVING FUND COMPONENT

The **emergency coordination window** of SFERA's revolving fund component facilitates the rapid deployment of emergency experts, as well as the reinforcement of existing teams to support additional activities or fill short-term funding gaps. During the past year, allotments were approved to support i) the rapid deployment of key emergency staff and reinforcement of capacities in decentralized offices; ii) the set-up of office space and logistics; and iii) the provision of basic communications, computer and other office equipment. The following table shows the allocation of resources by country.

**Table 6.** Emergency coordination allocations

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>Approved allocations (USD 000)</b>
Afghanistan	53
Chad	85
Democratic Republic of Congo	63
Djibouti	35
Guinea	99
Jordan	72
Lebanon	113
Liberia	65
Madagascar	184
Philippines	8
Sierra Leone	43
Somalia	107
South Sudan	105
Syria	196
Turkey	70
Yemen	36
Zambia	6
Regional Africa	100
Eastern and Central Africa	70
West Africa/Sahel	82
Regional Latin America	89
Pacific Subregion	105
<b>TOTAL ALLOTMENT – EMERGENCY COORDINATION</b>	<b>1 785</b>

The **needs assessment and programme development window** of the revolving fund finances needs assessment missions at the onset of a crisis. This activity supports FAO and its partners in obtaining the information needed to formulate a rapid response programme. During the reporting period, needs assessment and programme formulation missions were deployed to the countries shown in the following table.

<b>Table 7. Needs assessment mission allocations</b>	
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>Approved allocations (USD 000)</b>
Afghanistan	45
Bosnia-Herzegovina	71
Central African Republic	100
Chad	25
Guinea-Bissau	100
Iran	81
Iraq	26
Liberia	86
Liberia/Guinea-Bissau/Sierra Leone/Nigeria	62
Madagascar	60
Mauritania	2
Niger	5
Nigeria	80
Peru	8
Senegal	60
Sierra Leone	58
Somalia	100
South Sudan	100
Sudan	58
Syria	44
Ukraine	100
West Africa/Sahel	145
Pacific Islands	15
<b>TOTAL ALLOTMENT- NEEDS ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>1 429</b>

**Table 8.** Programme development allocations

COUNTRY	Approved allocations (USD 000)
Afghanistan	60
Central Africa Republic	89
Chad	33
Democratic Republic of Congo	50
Iraq	81
Mali	33
Pacific Islands	20
Pakistan	40
Philippines	44
Syria	86
Turkey	57
West Bank and Gaza Strip	40
Yemen	8
<b>TOTAL ALLOTMENT – PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>639</b>

The **Level 3 emergency preparedness and response window** was established under the revolving fund component following the Finance Committee's endorsement at its hundred and forty-seventh session<sup>5</sup>. This window is focused on the following six areas: (i) development and maintenance of appropriate Level 3 emergency procedures; (ii) capacity building for Level 3 emergency preparedness; (iii) organizational preparedness; (iv) participation in Level 3 interagency processes; (v) Level 3 simulations; and (vi) Level 3 emergency response.

### Preparedness

Under the "Development and maintenance of appropriate Level 3 emergency procedures" area, funds were allocated to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for Level 3 emergency responses, the "FAO Handbook for Emergency Preparedness and Response", and the tools and guidelines needed to facilitate a Level 3 emergency response. Resources under the "Capacity building for Level 3 emergency preparedness" area are earmarked for developing and improving FAO's capacities (at all levels) in preparedness and response to Level 3 emergencies. Funding provided under the "Organizational preparedness" area is allocated to develop a Global Emergency Response Roster, Emergency Competency Framework, and Emergency Job Profile, as well as for prepositioning emergency response supplies and equipment. Under the

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"Participation in Level 3 interagency processes" area, funding ensures that FAO can participate in all relevant interagency processes, as well as fulfil its responsibilities as a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and co-lead agency of the Food Security Cluster. The "Level 3 simulations" area supports FAO's participation in the annual emergency simulations conducted in each of the five regional offices to test their preparedness.

Over the reporting period, allotments were revised according to the progress achieved, as shown in the following table.

<b>Table 9. Level 3 emergency preparedness window funding</b>	
<b>LEVEL 3 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WINDOW</b>	<b>Allotment (USD 000)</b>
Development and maintenance of appropriate procedures	330
Capacity building for Level 3 emergency preparedness	350
Organization preparedness	420
Participation in interagency processes	400
Level 3 simulations	200
<b>TOTAL ALLOTMENT</b>	<b>1 700</b>

## Response

Funds allocated under the "Level 3 emergency response" area support FAO's immediate response actions on a 'no-regrets' basis, which is defined as the commitment of resources in the absence of detailed needs assessments and response plans. This provides response managers with the option to demobilize surplus resources as appropriate and without negative repercussions for decision makers. During the reporting period, resources were approved on a 'no-regrets' basis for emergency response activities in South Sudan.

<b>Table 10. Level 3 emergency response funding</b>	
<b>LEVEL 3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>	<b>Allotment (USD 000)</b>
South Sudan	500
<b>TOTAL ALLOTMENT</b>	<b>500</b>

In **South Sudan**, the armed hostilities erupted in Juba in December 2013 and quickly spread across the country, seriously affecting six out of ten states. High levels of food insecurity and massive displacement prompted FAO to declare a Level 3 emergency response on 11 February 2014 and triggered SFERA no-regret funding. FAO mobilized more than USD 60 million to respond to the crisis. The fund supported local capacity building through the deployment of an Emergency Response Manager, Senior Advisor, Procurement Officer, Logistics Officer, Operations Manager and Deputy Head of Office. SFERA funds were also critical to establishing timely pre-fabricated accommodations for incoming international staff (owing to the high security risk, accommodation options were severely limited and confined within the UN Compound at the beginning of the crisis). In addition, funds were used to improve the information and communications technologies facility at FAO's operational hub in Juba, strengthening the country office's delivery capacity.



## C. PROGRAMME COMPONENT

Under the SFERA programme component, USD 26.4 million was allocated as follows during the reporting period:

- ▶ USD 7.6 million under the AIRC window;
- ▶ USD 2.6 million for the Horn of Africa programme;
- ▶ USD 2.4 million for the Sahel programme;
- ▶ USD 0.7 million for the Locust programme; and
- ▶ USD 13.0 million for the Typhoon and Hurricanes programme.

### Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity window

Under the AIRC window, USD 7.6 million was allocated to 12 countries to support time-critical, emergency agricultural assistance while developing a more programmatic response to crises.

Table 11. Funding provided under the AIRC window		
COUNTRY	Type of intervention	Allotment (USD 000)
Afghanistan	Emergency support to improve the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable farming families affected by flash floods in the Surubi district of Kabul province, Afghanistan for the autumn 2013 and spring 2014 planting seasons	500
Benin	Assistance à la relance des activités productives des ménages affectés par les inondations de Karimama et de Malanville en République du Bénin	300
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Emergency animal health support for small scale livestock holders affected by the floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina	100
Central African Republic	Appuyer les moyens d'existence des petits producteurs affectés par le conflit depuis mars 2013 en République Centrafricaine	1 350
Democratic Republic of Congo	Renforcement de la capacité de production agricole de 4 800 ménages vulnérables (retournés et anciens ménages hôtes) dans le territoire de Rutshuru au travers d'une approche communautaire coordonnée	675
Pakistan	Emergency support to protect the livestock affected by the North Waziristan crisis through provision of critical veterinary supplies and feed	300
Philippines	Emergency response to restore the livelihoods of rural farmers affected by Typhoon Haiyan in Region VI	675
Rwanda	Rapid emergency response to the Cassava Brown Streak disease outbreak	250
Serbia	Emergency animal health support for small scale livestock holders affected by the floods in Serbia	100
South Sudan	Emergency response for food security and livelihood support to crisis-affected populations in South Sudan	1 350
Sudan	Emergency agriculture and livestock assistance to vulnerable households in Greater Darfur	675
Syria	Emergency assistance to strengthen veterinary services and mitigate the deterioration of animal health in Syria	675
	Emergency support to staple crops and vegetable production in Northern Syria	675
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7 625</b>

The ongoing conflict and instability in the **Central African Republic** stifled economic growth and reduced crop and livestock production, leaving many households with limited access to land and severely reduced livelihoods. SFERA AIRC funds enabled immediate assistance to the most vulnerable households – particularly women, girls and households affected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) – by providing assorted seeds and small tools. These interventions reinforced families' resilience, helping to improve their financial capacities, agriculture techniques and social protection, and contributing to increased food and nutrition security.



Time critical inputs and livelihood support were provided to conflict-affected food insecure households in **South Sudan**. Given the rapidly approaching planting season and need for immediate food sources, emphasis was placed on rapidly growing vegetables, which, together with fisheries inputs in riverine areas, provided an immediate supply of nutritious food for home consumption. In order to support livestock health, pre-positioning and rapid vaccination campaigns were conducted in the worst-affected areas.

AIRC funds provided strategic seed stocks in Rutshuru, **Democratic Republic of Congo** to reinforce the agricultural production capacities of 4 800 vulnerable internally displaced person (IDP), returnee and host community households. Local technical capacities were strengthened through training and community outreach activities, helping to increase the resilience of affected communities. The higher yields achieved on small strips of land helped to address the region's growing demographic pressures.

In the **Philippines**, AIRC contributions enabled an emergency distribution of key agricultural inputs to typhoon-affected farming households for the upcoming cropping season. The immediate provision of rice seed replaced lost stocks, while assorted vegetable seeds, primarily targeted to women, ensured additional and timely income (through backyard gardening) until the primary crops were ready to harvest. The distribution of hand tools allowed farmers to clear fields of debris and remove fallen trees.

In **Sudan**, the emergency distribution of key agriculture and livestock inputs targeted recently displaced IDPs and extremely vulnerable farmers and herders in greater Darfur. Training was conducted to maximize harvests and increase nutritional and income generating benefits. The provision of essential veterinary medicines and vaccines, as well as training for community animal health workers in the camp, helped to protect the livestock assets of IDPs. Vulnerable livestock-owning households with malnourished children were targeted with concentrated feed and mineral licks in order to increase milk production during the dry season.

In **Syria**, FAO supported vulnerable farming households (particularly female-headed households) through the provision of cereal seeds sufficient to cultivate an area of 0.5-1 ha of land and a vegetable kit to cultivate approximately 500-1 000 m<sup>2</sup> of land. These timely inputs increased farmers' resilience allowing them not to solely rely on food aid. The capacities of local veterinary services were also strengthened, enabling them to respond effectively to future disease outbreaks and provide timely animal health services to livestock owners.



Funding under the **AIRC window** also provided essential support to the following activities:

- ▶ In **Afghanistan**, AIRC funding supported the distribution of improved wheat seed and fertilizer, enabling the immediate resumption of wheat planting by 1 500 farming families affected by the flooding in 2013. The project also contributed to strengthen the capacities of local communities to build resilience to future flood events through training and increased awareness of risk reduction measures. Training topics included land preparation and post-harvest management.
- ▶ In **Benin**, funding enabled the immediate provision of agricultural inputs for 2 500 flood-affected households, facilitating a rapid recovery of production and post-harvest activities. Communities' resilience was strengthened through awareness raising and training on prevention and mitigation measures.
- ▶ In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, AIRC funding provided animal health support to 6 000 small-scale livestock farming families affected by the floods. The timely procurement of disinfectants, antibiotics, vaccines and the required equipment allowed the continuity of milk production and the protection of livelihoods. Awareness-raising activities related to the effects of flood water contamination and methods for clean-up and mitigation were also carried out.
- ▶ In **Pakistan**, SFERA funding enabled FAO to provide livestock protection to 24 000 families in IDP hosting areas through deworming activities, vaccination and technical support. IDP families dependent on livestock rearing were provided with multivitamin mineral supplements for their livestock during the feed scarcity period in winter.
- ▶ AIRC funding in **Rwanda** aims to increase vulnerable smallholder farmers' access to improved disease-free planting materials and improve cassava production practices to mitigate the effect of the Cassava Brown Streak Virus.
- ▶ In **Serbia**, funding supported the immediate provision of concentrated cattle and poultry compound feed to protect 950 flood-affected small-scale livestock holder families from de-stocking. Awareness-raising activities related to proper feeding practices were carried out to strengthen the production capacities of the farmer families.

## Horn of Africa window

During the reporting period, USD 2.6 million was allocated by Norway and Canada to support FAO's emergency programme in Somalia. Funds were used to increase the resilience of pastoralists to drought and related livelihood shocks.

<b>Table 12. Funding provided under the Horn of Africa window</b>		
<b>BENEFICIARY COUNTRY</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount received (USD 000)</b>
Somalia	Norway	1 668
	Canada	919
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 587</b>

In addition to recurrent droughts, floods and conflict, vulnerable populations in the Horn of Africa are adversely affected by highly variable climate patterns and displacement. The funds allocated under the SFERA Horn of Africa window were critical in delivering agricultural assistance to address some of the structural factors influencing vulnerability to food insecurity in Somalia (e.g. environmental degradation, unsustainable production techniques, limited market access and gender inequity). FAO's support focused on strengthening households' and communities' capacities and access to knowledge and support services for sustainable production and diversification of income and livelihood strategies. SFERA funding was used to improve beneficiaries' resilience to drought by scaling up successful cash-for-work programmes to expand and rehabilitate productive infrastructure to stimulate both local markets and agricultural production of smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

## Sahel Crisis window

During the reporting period, Norway's contributions to the SFERA Sahel Crisis window enabled FAO to cover the urgent needs of the poorest households in Niger.

<b>Table 13. Funding provided under the Sahel Crisis window</b>		
<b>BENEFICIARY COUNTRY</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount received (USD 000)</b>
Niger	Norway	814
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>814</b>

Despite average harvests in 2012 and 2013, persistent high levels of food and nutrition insecurity reflect the chronic challenges faced by vulnerable populations in the Sahel region. Cereal production declined in several zones, particularly in Niger, Chad, Mali and Senegal. In 2013, agricultural production of the poorest households was insufficient to restore their livelihoods. This was especially prevalent among families living in pastoral and the agro-pastoral zones. FAO supplied strategic stocks of seed and animal feed to households affected by food shortages, improving their preparedness for future crises. The resilience of targeted households was further strengthened by increasing agro-pastoral production and diversification. These activities promoted soil and water conservation, restoration of degraded lands, and training in good practices for agriculture and livestock management. Households' awareness on nutrition was also further strengthened.

### Locust Campaign window

During the reporting period, France's contribution to the Locust Campaign window enabled FAO to strengthen locust control operations in Madagascar.

**Table 14.** Funding provided under the Locust Campaign window

BENEFICIARY COUNTRY	Donor	Amount received (USD 000)
Madagascar	France	678
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>678</b>

The ongoing Malagasy Migratory Locust plague, which began in April 2012, had a dramatic impact on agricultural production and the availability of pasture resources for livestock. To combat the plague, FAO and Madagascar's Ministry of Agriculture prepared an emergency programme for three consecutive locust campaigns (2013-2016). The first large-scale locust campaign started in September 2013 and ended in September 2014, with FAO providing technical assistance to safeguard the food security of rural populations in Madagascar. FAO also helped to improve local capacities to monitor and analyse the locust situation, and to conduct large-scale aerial control operations. This first anti-locust campaign prevented larger damage to crops and pastures and protected the large rice producing regions of the country, located in the centre and north. During the implementation of all programme activities, efforts were made to mitigate the impact of locust control operations on human health and the environment. In April 2014, FAO launched procurement activities for the second campaign, which was launched in September 2014. The second and third campaigns are imperative to respectively support the decline of the plague and the return to a locust recession situation.

## Typhoon and Hurricanes window

During the reporting period, Canada, Norway, Switzerland and Ireland contributed USD 9.7 million to the SFERA Typhoon and Hurricanes window.

<b>Table 15. Funding provided under the Typhoon and Hurricanes window</b>		
<b>BENEFICIARY COUNTRY</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount received (USD 000)</b>
Philippines	Canada	5 469
	Norway	2 549
	Switzerland	1 096
	Ireland	681
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 795</b>

Funding provided under the Typhoon and Hurricanes window was critical to scaling up emergency assistance in the Philippines to support agriculture- and fisheries-based livelihoods affected by typhoon Haiyan. The international communities' immediate response enabled FAO (working closely with the national government) to support tens of thousands of rice farmers to quickly restore and replant their devastated fields. In addition, FAO provided assistance to over one million typhoon-affected coconut farmers in finding alternative sources of income, and in creating intensified and diversified coconut areas by intercropping highly nutritious vegetables, tree crops (e.g. Moringa), fruits and suitable livestock integration approaches.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

SFERA is a key tool to support the implementation of the Strategic Objective 5, "Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis", which aims to improve the capacities of highly vulnerable populations to withstand and adapt to shocks. In particular SFERA is essential to FAO's continued ability to provide rapid, high-impact emergency assistance to the most vulnerable populations affected by disaster. SFERA also plays a critical role in coordinating a collaborative, longer-term response focusing on people's livelihood and resilience strategies, as well as improving the capacity of their local institutions to prevent, protect and restore livelihoods.





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