



HIGH-LEVEL
EXPERT
FORUM

HLEF: Side Event on Somalia

13 September 2012

12.15 – 13.30, Iran Room

Presentation by Mr. Sikander Khan, UNICEF Representative in Somalia:

“Resilience is defined as the ability of a system to anticipate, resist and/or recover from stresses or shocks in ways that preserve integrity and do not deepen vulnerability. This includes both the ability to withstand threats and the ability to adapt to new options if necessary.”

Since late 2011, FAO Somalia, UNICEF Somalia and WFP Somalia have joined efforts to promote a medium-term strategy to enhance household and community resilience in Somalia. The objectives of this strategy for the three agencies are to better align programmes and to coordinate interventions to bring about more resilient outcomes for beneficiaries.

This strategy requires multi-year and comprehensive approaches as well as multi-sectoral partnerships and collaboration. This requires a “paradigm shift” focused on investing now to empower households and communities to reduce, mitigate and manage their risks in order to reduce the need for emergency assistance the medium and long terms.

This Side Event reviews the rationale and motivation for adopting a joint strategy on household and community resilience and presents some of the early lessons the organizations have learnt from this ongoing experience. An analysis of the relevance of resilience strategies in the context of Somalia is followed by an outline of the key strategic changes proposed under the FAO–UNICEF–WFP strategy and of the process adopted by the three agencies for moving towards concrete implementation of the strategy on the ground.

The objective of this event is to provide HLEF participants with more information on this experience as well as to identify interesting aspects of resilience programming that could be part of HLEF immediate actions recommendations.