

In Sudan, Faiza Adam a community animal health worker trained by FAO gets ready for vaccinations in Darfur.

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## SITUATION UPDATE

Dry conditions have generally eased in many parts of the Greater Horn of Africa following the onset of rains in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. However, significant rainfall deficits remain in some parts of the subregion and are likely to affect crop production in eastern Kenya, southern Somalia, southern Ethiopia and southern parts of South Sudan. Northern parts of South Sudan and Sudan, remain seasonally dry and do not expect rain until June. The ongoing recovery from the severe 2011 drought in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya; below-normal start to the 2012 rains in many parts of the Greater Horn; the impacts of conflict in Sudan, South Sudan and southern Somalia; and rising food prices in the region, imply that food insecurity is likely to persist for months.

**Djibouti:** The food security situation in the country is poor. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in December 2011 placed about half the country under Phase 2 (Stress), with the other half in Phase 3 (Crisis). The Food Security Cluster is considering raising the targets planned in the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for inclusion during the Mid Year Review (MYR).

**Ethiopia:** Although rainfall was not evenly distributed, many parts of East and West Hararghe, Borana and Guji zones of Oromia, most parts of Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNRP), and some areas of Amhara and Tigray received good seasonal rains during the first half of May 2012. Land preparation for irrigated agriculture is ongoing in most parts of Afar despite reported shortage of improved seeds. Planting of *Belg* (February – May) crops continued in most areas of SNNPR, while in East and West Hararghe of Oromia, major *Belg* crops — in particular sorghum, maize, haricot bean and groundnuts that were planted in the past three weeks have germinated. Availability of water and pasture for livestock is improving in most parts of south and west Afar, Somali, Amhara, Borana, Guji and East and West Hararghe Zones of Oromia, as well as most parts of SNNPR. The continued rise in price of milk since November 2011 is of concern. The current price of cow milk is 68 percent higher than it was in December 2011.

**Kenya:** Following the onset of rains, areas in western Kenya, central highlands, southern Rift Valley and Nairobi received above-average rains

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and some areas were flooded. The heavy rains are likely to negatively impact crop production and an assessment is under way in affected areas. However, in many areas, rainfall was late and poorly distributed — over space and time — resulting in late planting. Parts of central, eastern and coastal Kenya have received below-average rains. If this is not compensated by a longer rainy season, a negative impact on yields is likely. Northern pastoral livelihood zones affected by poor rains will likely suffer from inadequate pasture regeneration, further exacerbating the fragile food security situation. Furthermore, it has been reported that maize crops in the southern Rift districts of Kenya have been attacked by a fungal affecting 18-30 percent of the crop.

**Somalia:** Recent Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) updates indicate significant improvements from the December 2011 survey. In Mogadishu, internally displaced persons (IDPs) nutrition situation has improved to *Critical*, with general acute malnutrition of 16.1 percent and severe acute malnutrition of 3.7 percent. The food security situation in the rest of Somalia is expected to remain unchanged up to June 2012 regardless of the behaviour of the *Gu* rains (April – August), which currently is projected to be below normal. This is due to the positive effects of a favourable *Deyr* (October/ November) season in 2011 and the humanitarian support in the south in the first quarter of 2012.

**South Sudan:** The vegetation anomaly data

for mid - May 2012 show poor vegetation development in the entire Greater Equatoria region. This generally means that the rainfall is still below average and especially so in Western Equatoria, considered to be one of the breadbaskets of South Sudan. Current food prices are far above the 2007 – 2011 average, and much higher than at the same time last year, in most markets in South Sudan. The worst affected areas lie in the conflict-hit border between Sudan and South Sudan. These locations are in IPC phase 3 (Crisis) levels of food insecurity.

**Sudan:** Water and pasture sources are scarce across the country as the dry season comes to an end. FAO field officers have reported worsening animal body conditions. In the east, donkeys have started eating the noxious mesquite tree and are showing signs of toxicity. Farmers with access to land are currently preparing for cultivation in June. Across Sudan food prices are atypically high.

**Uganda:** Northern Uganda, Teso and West Nile are currently classified as IPC phase 2 (Stressed), while the rest of the country is classified in phase 1 (Minimal food insecurity). Although the first season rains for 2012 were delayed, they are now well established; however, they are expected to recede in June. This may affect the development of some crops, especially cereals. Currently, households have minimal stocks after selling most of their harvests during the dry season. Most of the food that is available with traders is targeting external markets (neighbouring countries) that attract higher prices.

## FAO RESPONSE

FAO has renewed its commitment to a Hunger-Free Horn of Africa, emphasizing governments' commitment, policy advocacy, and enhanced investment and upscaling of 'best practices'. However, achieving food and nutrition security in the Horn of Africa is a challenge too great for FAO or any government to overcome alone. FAO prioritizes partnerships and synergies in order to provide effective and efficient support. FAO has engaged the Regional Offices of the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to strengthen collaboration and joint action in the Horn of Africa.

### Immediate Response

In Djibouti, FAO is working closely with the Ministries of Agriculture and Interior to strengthen the disaster risk management platform, putting in place mechanisms including early warning and information collection and diffusion systems to minimize the risk and potential scale of future disasters, as well as to increase the capacity of Djiboutian national institutions to immediately respond to crises.

FAO's rural water point rehabilitation programme is increasing access to underground water sources for 10 000 rural and agropastoral households (60 percent of the beneficiaries are women). FAO has also mapped migration routes and water points for pastoralists as well as cross-border movements within the Horn of Africa region.

In Ethiopia, FAO distributed 284 000 sweet potato vines and 43 120 cassava cuttings to 2 354 households. Diffuse light storage (DLS) is a low cost method of storing seed potatoes, which has been found to extend their storage life and improve their productivity. Five potato seed DLS structures were constructed in East and West Hararghe. The forage development project is ongoing and forage crops are now at the flowering stage and will be harvested soon. 48 individuals organized in three cooperatives are engaged in the forage development project in Somali region. FAO is working with the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development



Programme (UNDP) on livestock restocking activities in six districts in Borana. Training of Pastoral Field School facilitators was conducted in Liben district for 24 participants.

In Kenya, FAO continues to work closely with Government ministries and NGO partners to build the resilience of affected communities. FAO has distributed 860 tonnes of various drought-tolerant crops to 265 000 beneficiaries which should yield 124 000 tonnes of food. Some 2 million cuttings and vines of cassava and sweet potatoes were also distributed to 16 000 farmers. Training has been conducted for more than 12 000 farmers in various parts of eastern Kenya. Community-based seed systems supported by FAO have produced 120 tonnes of seed. 10 000 households have participated in the construction of soil and water conservation structures, conserving 5 000 acres of their farms. Twenty sand dams constructed through voucher-for-work will support 5 000 households. The rehabilitation of six small-scale irrigation schemes will benefit more than 2 000 households in drought-prone Garissa and Turkana. FAO is also supporting the procurement of metal silos to protect against post-harvest losses. In pastoral more than 100 000 animals have been vaccinated to prevent the spread of tick-borne diseases.

Following the merger of the Food Assistance Cluster and the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster) in Somalia, the Food Security Cluster (co-led by FAO) had its first meeting in Gedo on May 2012 with the participation of 25 local and international organizations. FAO is currently preparing a response plan for the four newly accessible areas (Gedo, Hiran, Bakool and parts of Bay), including providing, improved agricultural inputs and cash-for-work programmes. Elsewhere in the country, 95 050 households have received agricultural inputs and training; of these 23 750 households (mainly women) are also set to receive vegetable seeds during the 2012 *Gu* season. 8.7 million animals have been vaccinated against *peste des petits*

*ruminants* (PPR) across the country. Due to underfunding of the CAP, the Cluster has prioritized provision of food to households affected by the crisis, as well as providing agricultural inputs. Consequently, longer-term activities to build communities' resilience to droughts have not been prioritized.

In South Sudan, FAO continued with distribution of agriculture inputs to over 25 000 households in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei States while prepositioning of agricultural inputs in major hubs for further distribution in Upper Nile, Unity, Lakes and Warrap states is still ongoing. Livestock diseases continue to spread and are threatening over 2.7 million head of livestock. As the rainy season progresses, the risk of East Coast fever (ECF) will increase. It is now present in five states. FAO is providing support to 15 000 households in 7 states

— through livestock vaccinations, veterinary treatment, and training to strengthen disease surveillance. Due to funding shortfalls, more than 100 000 households, will not receive assistance to re-enter the agricultural production cycle.

In May, FAO Sudan signed an agreement for a USD1.45 million quick-impact project with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) targeting agriculture and livelihoods in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. A total of 240,000 IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable people affected by fighting in both states will be supported to produce their own food in order to strengthen food security and reduce dependence on food aid. The project is in the early stages of implementation.

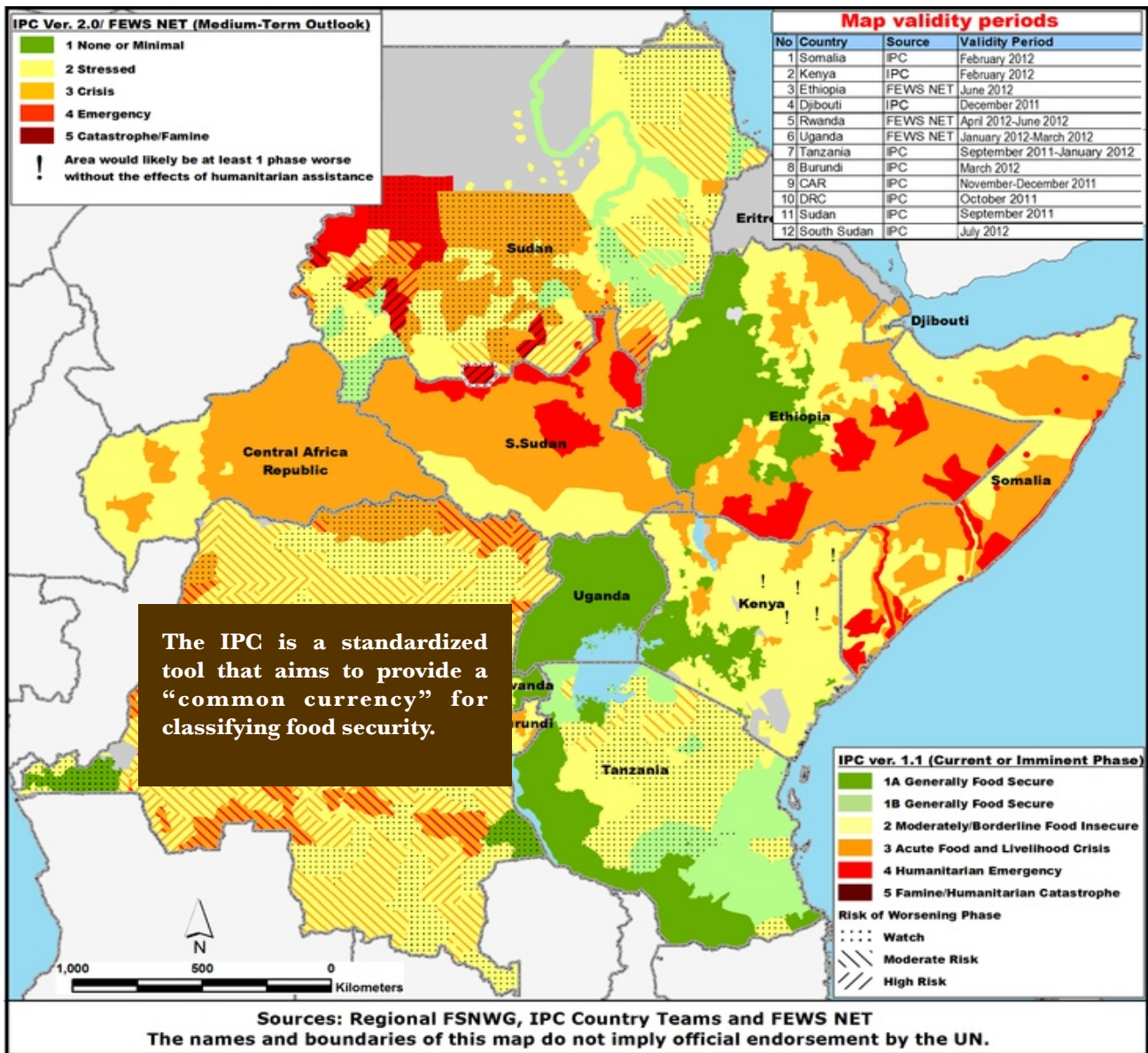
FAO Uganda is working with the Government and partners to sustain livelihoods through better farming systems, natural resources management, and livestock health and nutrition using farmer field schools (FFS) and Agro-Pastoral Field Schools (APFS). FAO is currently distributing 23.5 tonnes of assorted seeds, 600 oxen and 800 ploughs in Northern Uganda.

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**Ethiopia: farmer harvesting rice.**  
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### Policy and Investment response

In preparation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regional Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), broad and inclusive dialogues have been carried out in Djibouti, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Further consultations will be carried out in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, in the coming weeks. A peer-learning visit to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for two members of the CAADP regional consultants team including discussions with International Food policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Hub Rural and CAADP focal points in Senegal and Nigeria has been scheduled for early June.

On 16 and 17 May an IGAD Ministerial and High-Level UN Agencies meeting on Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa took place in Djibouti. The meeting underlined the centrality of IGAD's role in helping its Member States overcome drought emergencies. The UN undertook to support national and regional plans. IGAD observer status was proposed for some UN meetings.

FAO and IGAD are currently looking the Mapping Actions for Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSAN) tool to evaluate its suitability for the IGAD Platform. Discussions are ongoing between colleagues working on MAFSAN, the Food and Agriculture Policy Decision

Analysis Tool (FAPDA) that keeps track of policy measures in the region, and the Monitoring African Food and Agricultural Policies Project (MAFAP) that intends to monitor the impact of specific policies adopted in the region, to coordinate FAO support to IGAD.

Draft Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs), which were produced for the IGAD Ministerial meeting of 3 and 4 April, are being finalized in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda by a team of FAO staff and national consultants. CPFs for Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan will be completed over the coming weeks. The CPFs will then be used to prepare a Regional Programming Framework (RPF), which will be the main planning and coordination tool for the IGAD Regional Platform on Disaster Resilience and Sustainability. Based on the CPFs, IGAD will further develop the country-level coordination mechanisms to operationalize its Platform, with support from FAO.

FAO is providing support to the ongoing preparation missions of the African Development Bank in Ethiopia and Sudan for their Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme. Missions in support of the World Bank-funded Regional Pastoral Livelihood Recovery and Resilience Project (RPLRRP), to be implemented in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia are scheduled for June.



## Technical Support and Capacity Development Response

FAO is facilitating a bi-monthly Regional Pastoralism and Livestock Technical Working Group under the auspices of the Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG). The key discussions centred on the formation of IGAD's Centre for Pastoralism and Livestock Development (ICPALD) and integration of nutrition into livestock interventions. FAO continues to give IPC technical and coordination support to several countries in the region, with training on IPC version 2.0 and analysis provided to IPC Technical Working Groups in the sub-region.

FAO is collaborating with national governments and other development partners in the Horn of Africa, to enhance the overall competitiveness of the agriculture sector through support to capacity development and institutional strengthening. FAO is undertaking activities to: promote improved production and productivity in the crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry subsectors; contribute to enhanced performance and sustainability of natural resources, including a reversal of current environmental degradation; promote agricultural commercialization, including facilitation to capacity building and agribusiness linkages in livestock marketing and value addition; and strengthen resilience and coping mechanisms to mitigate recurrent agro-ecological and economic shocks and hazards.



In Kenya - FAO, University of Nairobi and community monitors use water gauges to examine sentinel sites in a water monitoring project for drought preparedness and response.

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## IMMEDIATE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND GAPS 2012

	Djibouti	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Uganda	Regional	Total
Funding requirements for 2012	7 850 000	14 000 000	27 014 973	172 000 000	23 142 000	41 685 000	10 000 000	2 000 000	297 691 973
Funds received to-date	4 814 000	5 600 000	19 344 973	84 658 657	4 738 692	8 500 000	7 000 000	0	134 656 322
<b>Funding gap</b>	<b>3 036 000</b>	<b>8 400 000</b>	<b>7 670 000</b>	<b>87 341 343</b>	<b>18 403 308</b>	<b>33 185 000</b>	<b>3 000 000</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>163 035 651</b>

## CONTACTS

Mr Castro Camarada  
**Subregional Coordinator**  
 Subregional Office for Eastern Africa  
 E-mail: [Castro.Camarada@fao.org](mailto:Castro.Camarada@fao.org)  
 Tel: + 251 11 647 8749

Ms Cristina Amaral  
**Chief**  
 Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division  
 E-mail: [Cristina.Amaral@fao.org](mailto:Cristina.Amaral@fao.org)  
 Tel: +39 06 570 53290