

It is the camel's ability to withstand extreme temperatures that makes them so valuable in the Horn of Africa. Camels are used for transport, meat, milk and leather.

©FAO/ C. Camarada



SITUATION UPDATE

The February—May rainfall was characterized by a late onset and mixed performance throughout the horn of Africa (HoA). Exceptionally heavy rains and the consequential flooding in western areas contrasted sharply with large rainfall deficits in eastern areas, including the eastern half of Kenya, parts of southern Somalia, northeastern Ethiopia, and northwestern Uganda. These rains led to a generally improved regional food security situation. However, several areas are still in Crisis and Emergency food insecurity situation (IPC Phase 3 and 4 respectively).

Projections are signalling the onset of June—September rainfall in western *Meher* areas of Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, and northern Somalia. According to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) led Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook, forecast for this period point to the likelihood of above-normal rains for most of the western sector (Sudan, South Sudan, most of Ethiopia, Uganda, and western Kenya) as well as the coastal strip of Somalia and Kenya.

Djibouti: A report released by the *Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche, de l'Élevage et des Ressources Halieutiques* (MAPE-RH) highlighted that water levels were dangerously low in Ali Sabieh district (particularly in Fradil) and this was affecting agriculture and livestock production. Monitoring of water points had also revealed an increase in salinity levels. At the same time it was noted that due to significant reduction of water and pasture the general health and physical appearance of livestock

was poor, hence affecting their market value. The report also noted with concern a general increase in the price of staple foods in the market.

Ethiopia: Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) remains in the *belg* crop producing areas, parts of Somali and Afar regions due to the below normal March—May rainfall, low food availability and high food prices. However, improved water availability and pasture in the last few weeks have led to better livestock conditions in the southern and southeastern pastoral and agropastoral areas. The delayed harvest of *belg* crops is likely to interfere with the planting seasons of the *meher* short-cycle crops in June and July. This is likely to affect the food situation in the *belg*-producing highlands in eastern Amhara, eastern Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region (SNNPR).

Kenya: According to the “Long Rains 2012 mid-season Food Security Assessment Report” released by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG), most of the country is in Stressed food insecurity phase (IPC Phase 2). However some parts of the pastoral areas of north and northeastern Kenya are in the Crisis food insecurity phase (IPC Phase 3). While a good maize crop condition was reported in the major growing areas of the north Rift Valley, 24 000 hectares in the south Rift Valley have been affected by disease which will likely result in a 60 percent crop loss in affected areas. In addition, 17 000 hectares of crops have also been affected by floods during the April—June rains. Furthermore, a near total maize crop failure is likely in

The February — May rainfall was characterized by a late onset and mixed performance throughout the horn of Africa (HoA). Exceptionally heavy rains and substantial flooding in western areas contrasted sharply with large rainfall deficits in eastern areas

With the rain season well underway in many parts of the HoA, many animals are prone to diseases and infections. Vaccinations campaigns are ongoing in various countries with animals being treated and vaccinated.

semi arid farming areas in the southeast and coastal areas due to poor rain performance. The long rains season in Kenya accounts for 85 percent of the national maize output.

Somalia: Both poor and late harvests are expected in the southern agropastoral and inland rainfed areas due to poor *Gu* rainfall (April—June) and pest infestations. A post *Gu* 2012 assessment is being carried out by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and will determine the estimated crop production output. Though a return to Famine (IPC Phase 5) in southern Somalia is not expected, a scaling up of humanitarian assistance and activation of the contingency planning process is necessary to address the unusually high needs in agropastoral areas during the current extended lean season. Preliminary results of the assessment indicate that 2.51 million people are likely to remain in food security crisis (IPC Phase 3). Climate outlook for *Hagaa* season (June—August 2012) concludes that there will be an increased likelihood of near normal to above normal *Hagaa* rainfall in coastal areas of Juba and the Shabelle.

South Sudan: Most of the country is currently in Crisis food insecurity phase (IPC Phase 3), however several areas in the north along the border are in Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). The current food security situation comes against the backdrop of unprecedented cereal deficit of 470 000 tonnes with the highest cereal deficits being experienced in the northern border states. Due the boarder closure

of South Sudan and Sudan - after tensions escalated in the past few months - flow of food and non-food commercial supplies from Sudan to key markets in border states of South Sudan have been hampered. As a result, market prices along the border areas have increased substantially with some staple food prices rising by as high as 200 percent of what they were at the same time last year.

Sudan: Food insecurity is of greatest concern in South Kordofan, where 200 000 – 250 000 people now face Crisis to Emergency food insecurity levels (IPC Phase 3 and 4). Some rain has been recorded in North Darfur, South Darfur, Abyei, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Kassala, however the rain has so far not been enough to alleviate significant pressures on livestock caused by a lack of water and pasture. Since this is the start of the main June—September rainy season, poor households are most likely to be affected during this hunger gap period as food stocks are low or have run out. Food prices are anticipated to rise further until the next harvests.

Uganda: In northern Uganda, rains were one month late. This led to into late planting and thus late harvests are expected. West-Nile, Acholi, Karamoja and Teso regions are currently classified as stressed (IPC phase 2), while the rest of the country is experiencing minimal food insecurity (IPC phase 1). Currently, households have minimal stocks after selling most of their harvests during the dry season.

FAO RESPONSE

Immediate Response

Direct support to households and communities affected by the crises is continuing with a focus on assisting them to build resilience and enhance their agricultural production capacities.

The Cash-for-Work and Voucher-for-Work (CfW and VfW) programmes in Djibouti and Kenya have reached 10 240 households. Projects completed through this programme in Djibouti focused on protecting pasture in key migration routes through community fencing initiatives. In Kenya, the beneficiaries participated in the construction of soil and water conservation structures covering over 2 000 hectares of farmland by preparing terraces. The CfW and VfW programmes are designed to increase access to food through rapid cash delivery to the households while supporting small scale food security enhancing infrastructure rehabilitation and development projects.

Using the digital pen technology, 2 605 disease surveillance reports have been completed in Kenya. This is allowing the animal health sector in the country to overcome the challenge of collecting

data from the field thus enabling timely decision-making. The digital pens scan written information on animal disease reports to cut reporting times from the field. The pens transmit the data via a Bluetooth wireless connection to a mobile phone and then onward via the cellular network to central servers, where central veterinary authorities can immediately analyze the information and take emergency action if necessary.

With the rain season well underway in many parts of the HoA, many animals are prone to diseases and infections. Vaccinations campaigns are ongoing in various countries with animals being treated and vaccinated. So far, 6 250 000 cattle have been vaccinated in Kenya and South Sudan. In Somalia, 16 million small ruminants have been vaccinated against *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) and 490 969 animals vaccinated and treated against; infectious diseases, blood parasites as well as internal and external parasites.

Agricultural inputs and training on agronomic practices was provided to 95 050 households in Somalia, while in South Sudan agriculture support was also provided to 63 000 vulnerable households

including returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). An additional 15 000 households will also benefit from fishing gear to take advantage of the swelling waters of the Nile and other inland fishing resources.

In Sudan, FAO has engaged partners in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Dafur to implement quick impact projects targeting agriculture and livelihoods. Procurement of inputs has been finalized and distribution of 1 285 tonnes of seeds and 74 899 planting tools will commence soon to enable beneficiaries engage in timely planting. IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable people will be supported to produce their own food in order to strengthen food security and reduce dependence on food aid.

Policy and Investment response

The process of formulating the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) compact is progressing. CAADP compact is framework for Agricultural development and growth that provides priorities for implementation based on the national priorities of the countries affected by the crisis in the HoA. A six-member regional team and FAO country teams are supporting IGAD in the process. Four complete country reports and three drafts have been produced and regional priorities are being identified around identified thematic sections.

Three CAADP formulation team members visited the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Africa Office Africa office from May 31—June 8 2012 to learn from their experiences in developing and managing regional CAADP. They held fruitful discussions with the CAADP focal persons for Senegal and Nigeria, learning about how West Africa formulated their CAADP and their Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP) as well as how they are funding, monitoring and implementing them. A full report is being prepared and the findings

and recommendations will be shared with IGAD and FAO.

As part of a Technical Consortium, FAO continues to provide support to the HoA countries in the finalization of their Country Programming Papers (CPPs). Currently the consortium is focusing on enhancing the technical quality, strengthening the dialogue with Development Partners and non-state actors, and developing/ strengthening the coordination as well as monitoring and evaluation arrangements. All papers should be finalized in August 2012. In the meantime, FAO is supporting IGAD in the preparation of a Regional Programming Framework (RPF), based on the CPPs. In June, IGAD conducted country assessments for the establishment of national platforms under the IGAD regional platform for drought resilience and sustainability. FAO will work together with IGAD to establish linkages between its Regional Platform and national coordination arrangements.

A high level conference on Somalia was held in Istanbul 31 May 2012, where discussions on building resilience of the communities were the main focus. A resilience strategy developed by FAO, World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was presented at the meeting. The three agencies have finalized the preparation of a common work plan for the implementation of the strategy, while Individual agency programmes are being concluded.

On 13 and 14 June, an introductory meeting to establish the Global Alliance for Resilience and Growth took place in Geneva. As a development partners' initiative, the aim of the Global Alliance are to: develop a common understanding on drought resilience; advocate for an integrated approach to relief and development response; and promote harmonisation and communication across all levels and stakeholders. The focus is initially on the HoA with FAO's central role in many interconnected processes being recognized. The meeting reinforced the focus on resilience and growth as crucial for the subregion.

With a coastline measuring 3 025 km, Somalia's marine fisheries resources are among the richest in the world. FAO is training Somalia's fishing communities on sustainable fishing practices.

©FAO/ F. Nyakairu



Capacity Development and Technical Support

FAO in collaboration with the Africa Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) conducted a regional Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop from 11–13 June 2012 in Nairobi. The training was targeted at public and private service providers in livestock and meat value chain within the HoA (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda). The training was helpful in providing the service providers with valuable technical and marketing knowledge to improve the livestock and meat value chain actor’s capacity - to adjust their operations in line with domestic and export market requirements - with a view of maximizing their profits.

In a bid to improve the agropastoral production systems, FAO and MAPE-RH in Djibouti conducted training on introducing agropastoralist field schools (APFS). Some 28 facilitators and 10 government officers were engaged with this being a first of several sessions. This particular module was designed to provide the participants with participatory facilitation techniques needed to set up 15 APFS groups.

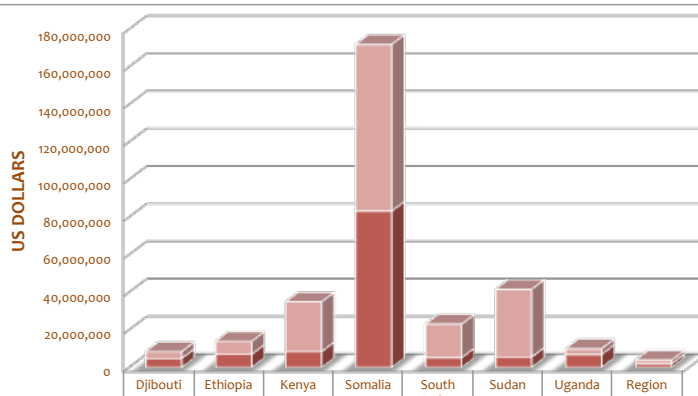
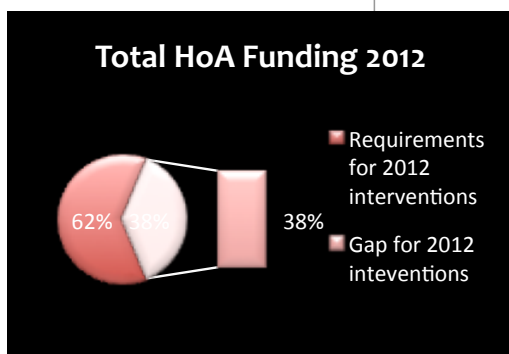
In South Sudan FAO is supporting 40 farmer field schools (FFSs) to increase the agricultural production and productivity through promotion of improved farming practices. Learning plots were prepared and planting of vegetables, cereals and fruits is underway. Some FFSs established previously are being assisted to develop agro-based business products. Five FFS groups (5 000 farmers) have now evolved into farmer cooperative societies and are now engaged in the following enterprises: groundnut oil and paste extraction; vegetable production and marketing; fish processing, preservation and marketing; and sorghum production, marketing and value addition.



In 2011 South Sudan had a cereal deficit of 470 000 tonnes. FAO is assisting farmers to increase their productivity through the provision of quality agricultural inputs

©FAO/ E. Ogolla

IMMEDIATE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND GAPS 2012



	Djibouti	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Uganda	Region
■ Gap for short-term interventions 2012	3,690,978	6,950,000	26,500,000	88,769,435	17,903,308	36,085,000	3,000,000	2,000,000
■ Funding Received for short-term interventions 2012	4,814,000	7,050,000	8,500,000	83,230,565	5,238,692	5,600,000	7,000,000	2,000,000

CONTACTS

Mr Castro Camarada
Subregional Coordinator
 Subregional Office for Eastern Africa
 E-mail: Castro.Camarada@fao.org
 Tel: + 251 11 647 8749

Ms Cristina Amaral
Chief
 Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division
 E-mail: Cristina.Amaral@fao.org
 Tel: +39 06 570 53290