

Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities Annual Report

July 2013 – June 2014



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 emergency¹ 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 through 30 June 2014, SFERA received USD 170.6 million, of which USD 75.2 million was allocated to large scale programmes (e.g. typhoons, hurricanes, Sahel, *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza* and locust plagues); USD 25.5 million was disbursed under the Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) window; USD 15.0 million was used to set-up or reinforce the Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit and implement needs assessment and programme formulation missions; and USD 3.2 million was allocated to establishing a Level 3 emergencies preparedness and response window. Since inception, USD 262.5 million has been advanced to fund immediate emergency needs, USD 37.7 million of which was advanced over the reporting period. Outstanding advances as at 30 June 2014 totalled USD 4.9 million, while the cash balance of SFERA at 30 June 2014 was USD 36.9 million.

¹ Sudden onset, large-scale disasters and crises that require a corporate response

I. Background

1. During its Hundred and Second Session in May 2003, the 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 a donor’s commitment has been obtained.”²

2. This annual report provides a brief description of the major operations initiated with SFERA funds for the twelve-month period ending 30 June 2014. The report also contains financial data for this period, as well as for the ten years since the Fund became operational.

II. SFERA set-up

3. 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, restart agricultural activities or contribute to an immediate response to a crisis; (ii) a revolving fund component to support the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations’ (FAO) involvement in needs assessment, programme development, early establishment and reinforcement of emergency country team capacities, as well as Level 3 emergency³ preparedness and response activities; and (iii) a programme component to support work on specific large-scale emergency programmes, or 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">• <i>Emergency coordination window</i>• <i>Needs assessment and programme development window</i>• <i>Level 3 Emergency preparedness and response window</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Large-scale programme window (e.g. typhoons and hurricanes, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Locust, Horn of Africa, Sahel)</i>• <i>Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity window</i>

4. **The working capital component** reduces the reaction time to emergencies by enabling FAO to initiate activities and purchase the most critical assets before 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.

5. **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

² FC 102/14

³ Sudden onset, large-scale disasters and crises that require a corporate response

Level 3 emergency preparedness and response window, FAO can meet the extraordinary challenges facing the agriculture sector during a Level 3 emergency.

6. **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 changes, 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

7. **Receipts** – Since SFERA's inception in April 2004, the Fund has received a total of USD 170.6 million. Of this amount, USD 118.4 million was provided by the member countries listed in the following table, and USD 6.4 million was provided by donors⁴ that transferred the balances of closed emergency projects to SFERA. During the 12 months ended 30 June 2014, deposits to SFERA totalled USD 33.7 million.

Table 2. SFERA funding receipts

Contributors	12 months to 30 June 2014 (USD 000)	From inception through 30 June 2014 (USD 000)
Belgium	9 140	27 766
Sweden	-	23 659
Norway	8 639	21 245
United Kingdom	-	9 339
France	1 444	8 537
Finland	42	7 471
Canada	6 410	7 224
Switzerland	1 096	4 893
Italy	-	1 456
Saudi Arabia	-	1 375
Germany	-	1 304
Austria	-	1 125
Ireland	681	998
Spain	12	520
China	-	500
South Africa	257	452

⁴ 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, Principauté de Monaco, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Greece	-	227
Australia	-	107
Jordan	-	60
Principauté de Monaco	-	59
Kuwait	50	50
Netherlands	-	21
Laos	-	14
New Zealand	-	13
Luxembourg	-	8
Chile	5	5
Other members	1	3
Total members	27 777	118 432
World Bank	-	21
OPEC fund	-	481
Others including from emergency project support costs reimbursements	5 933	51 690
Total received	33 710	170 624

As at 30 June 2014 - Source: compiled from subsidiary records and agreed to the general ledger.

IV. Use of SFERA funds

8. Under the working capital component, USD 262.5 million was advanced to projects after donors' commitment, but before receiving the cash contributions. Of this amount, USD 4.9 million remains outstanding, pending receipt of donor funds.

9. Of the USD 170.6 million contributed, USD 18.2 million was approved under the revolving fund component (USD 3.5 million during the reporting period). A total of USD 110.6 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 the following table.

Table 3. Funding components

	12 months to 30 June 2014 (USD 000)	Since inception (USD 000)
ADVANCES		
Working capital component		
Total advances made during the period	37 736	262 483
Refunds on advances paid during the period	38 404	257 629
Outstanding advances		4 854

APPLICATIONS		
Revolving Fund component		
For emergency coordination unit set-up and reinforcement	1 000	9 250
For needs assessment and programme formulation support	2 503	5 753
For L3 emergency preparedness and response	47	3 247
Total revolving fund component	3 550	18 250

Programme component		
Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC)	9 375	25 471
Regional Programmes (Horn of Africa)	4 197	11 853
Regional Programmes (Sahel)	1 633	1 828
Avian Influenza campaign	-	45 928
Tsunami campaign	-	10 002
Initiative on Soaring Food Prices	-	1 168
Locust Campaign	1 833	4 982
Typhoon and Hurricanes	9 405	9 405
Total programme component	26 443	110 637
Grand total applications	29 993	128 887

As at 30 June 2014 - Source: compiled from subsidiary records and agreed to the general ledger.

10. As of 30 June 2014, SFERA's cash balance was USD 36.9 million, calculated as follows: cumulative receipts of USD 170.6 million, less applications of USD 128.9 million, less outstanding advances of USD 4.9 million.

A. Working capital component

11. **Advances** – During the reporting period, 87 percent of SFERA advances were received from eight resource partners, as shown in the following table.

Table 4. SFERA advances from resource partners

Donor	Advances (USD 000)	Refunds (USD 000)
USA	8 354	6 427
Madagascar (UTF)	7 800	7 800
UK	6 100	4 900
European Community	4 600	6 001
Denmark	1 900	1 900
Common Fund for Humanitarian Action in Sudan	1 500	3 000
Norway	1 500	1 500
Switzerland	1 100	1 100

UN – OCHA	900	900
Germany	795	1 009
Belgium	664	664
Multiple donor	512	512
Italy	480	480
Sweden	415	831
Ireland	400	400
Brazil	280	280
France	200	200
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR)	150	150
WFP	86	350
Total	37 736	38 404

12. Advances mainly supported major country programmes in five countries, (i.e. Madagascar, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Niger and the Philippines), representing nearly 85 percent of all advances between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014.

Table 5. SFERA advances for country programmes

Countries	Advances (USD 000)	Refunds (USD 000)
Madagascar	11 800	11 800
South Sudan	11 200	12 500
Central African Republic	3 487	687
Niger	2 852	3 290
The Philippines	2 600	2 600
Regional Africa	1 307	2 106
Sudan	1 069	1 069
Afghanistan	550	550
Syria	480	480
Inter-regional	416	416
Burkina Faso	400	400
Haiti	366	532
Mauritania	319	180
Yemen	250	250
West Banka and Gaza Strip	200	0
Chad	150	490
Colombia	150	150
Ethiopia	140	140
Dominican Republic	0	91
Global	0	415
Ivory Coast	0	258
Total	37 736	38 404

13. SFERA advances in Madagascar enabled a timely and effective response to mitigate the threat of a locust plague to agriculture-based livelihoods. Inputs including pesticides, spraying material, vehicles and other equipment were provided to ensure the safe and effective implementation of response operations. Technical assistance and training was provided to improve stakeholders' capacities on surveillance, information sharing and effective response implementation.

14. SFERA advances also 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. In addition, 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.

15. 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. In addition, the resilience of women and children was improved through the establishment of saving and loan groups which provided training opportunities and financial support.

16. In the Sahel, SFERA funding enabled the provision of emergency assistance to households that remained vulnerable as a result of the 2012 cereal deficit. For example, quality seeds were distributed to vulnerable rural households in Niger in time for the planting season. During the dry season, SFERA advances enabled support for irrigated crops and supplementary animal feeding, reducing the vulnerability of households to drought. Women listening clubs were set up to increase risk awareness and preparedness to drought.

17. SFERA advances in the Philippines strengthened FAO's role in the Food Security Cluster, which included conducting initial damage and needs assessments, and coordinating humanitarian assistance in agriculture and fisheries sectors affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Farmers received a timely distribution of seed kits, hand tools, fertilizer and small irrigation pumps. As a result, they were able to harvest corn and maize within three to five months and sell the surplus at local markets.

B. Revolving fund component

18. 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. Rapid deployment allocations

Country	Approved allocation (USD 000)
Afghanistan	53
Burkina Faso	36
Central African Republic	131
Chad	85
Democratic Republic of Congo	103
Djibouti	35
Haiti and the Caribbean	125
Jordan	72
Lebanon	113
Madagascar	5
Malawi	85
The Philippines	113
Somalia	7
South Sudan	122
Sudan	70
Syria	147
Yemen	36
Regional Africa	196
Eastern Africa	100
North Africa	100
Regional Latin America	95
Pacific Islands	139
Total allotment – Rapid deployment	1 968

19. 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.

Table 7. Needs assessment mission allocations

Country	Approved allocation (USD 000)
Afghanistan	45
Bosnia-Herzegovina	25
Central African Republic	100
Ivory Coast	25

Guinea Bissau	20
Haiti	6
Iran	81
Iraq	26
Madagascar	60
Mali	47
Mauritania	2
Niger	5
Peru	8
The Philippines	60
South Sudan	100
Syria	44
Pacific Islands	15
Total allotment- Needs assessment	669

Table 8. Programme development allocations

Country	Approved allocation (USD 000)
Afghanistan	80
Central Africa Republic	41
Eastern Africa	130
Indonesia	24
The Philippines	96
Somalia	80
Syria	294
West Bank and Gaza Stripe	80
Yemen	65
Total allotment – Programme development	890

20. 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 session⁵. This window is focused on the following six areas: (i) development and maintenance of appropriate L3 emergency procedures; (ii) capacity building for L3 emergency preparedness; (iii) organizational preparedness; (iv) participation in L3 interagency processes; (v) L3 simulations; and (vi) L3 emergency response.

⁵ FC147/8

Preparedness

21. Under the "Development and maintenance of appropriate L3 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 L3 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 "Participation in L3 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 "L3 simulations" area supports FAO's participation in the annual emergency simulations conducted in each of the five regional offices to test their preparedness.

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

Table 9. L3 emergency preparedness window funding

L3 emergency preparedness window	Allotment USD (000)
Development and maintenance of appropriate procedures	315
Capacity building for L3 emergency preparedness	350
Organization preparedness	670
Participation in interagency processes	295
L3 simulations	70
Total allotment	1 700

Response

23. Funds allocated under the "L3 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 the Philippines⁶, Central Africa Republic and South Sudan.

Table 10. L3 emergency response funding

L3 Emergency response	Allotment USD (000)
The Philippines	547
Central Africa Republic	500

⁶ Including USD 47 000 as a direct contribution from one donor.

South Sudan	500
Total allotment	1 547

24. In response to the widespread devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan on 8 November 2013, SFERA L3 emergency response funding enabled FAO to provide immediate support to the Government of the Philippines. The provision of rice seed to highly vulnerable farmers in the most affected regions ensured that no planting seasons were missed. As a result, farmers were able to contribute to their own recovery while rebuilding their communities' food security and livelihoods. SFERA funding also allowed FAO to assemble and deploy a multidisciplinary emergency response team, and establish sub-offices in severely affected regions. In addition, SFERA supported FAO's role in interagency processes (such as response planning and the Multi-Cluster Rapid Needs Assessment) and ensured effective coordination of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster. A FAO team of technical experts assisted the Government National Economic and Development Authority in developing the Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan, which was launched in mid-December 2013. An expert in Accountability to Affected Populations/Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Communications with Communities was deployed to strengthen accountability during the development and implementation of the response programme.

25. At the onset of the crisis in Central African Republic in December 2013, an allocation from the SFERA Level 3 response window facilitated the rapid deployment of the Emergency Response Team, and strengthened the Surge Support Team backstopping the response programme. The missions covered the areas of programming, operations, administration and finance, procurement, logistics, coordination of sub-offices, Food Security Cluster, communication, outreach and advocacy, and information management.

26. 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

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

- USD 9.4 million under the AIRC window;
- USD 4.2 million for the Horn of Africa programme;
- USD 1.6 million for the Sahel programme;
- USD 1.8 million for the Locust programme; and
- USD 9.4 million for the Typhoon and Hurricanes programme.

Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity window

28. Under the AIRC window, USD 9.4 million was allocated to 11 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 Surobi 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 Benin	300
Central African Republic	Assistance d'urgence aux ménages agricoles vulnérables des zones les plus affectées par la crise en RCA	500
	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
Madagascar	Emergency Support to the 2013/2014 Locust Campaign in response to the locust plague in Madagascar	500
Mali	Rétablissement d'urgence de la capacité d'auto prise en charge des populations d'éleveurs déplacées du Mali par la restauration de leur productivité pastorale	500
Pakistan	Emergency support to the restoration of agricultural-based livelihoods of returned families in Kurram Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)	500
Philippines	Emergency response to restore the livelihoods of rural farmers affected by Typhoon Haiyan in Region VI	1 350
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 support for winter wheat production in Syria	500
Syria	Emergency assistance to strengthen veterinary services and mitigate the deterioration of animal health in Syria	675
Total		9 375

29. 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 and palms.

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. In crisis-affected areas of Syria, FAO supported vulnerable farming households (particularly female-headed households) through the provision of sufficient wheat seeds to plant one hectare per household. These timely inputs enabled farmers to continue their own production instead of relying 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.

34. 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.

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

- In Pakistan, funding ensured the sustainable return of crisis-affected people to their homes and increased stability in FATA. 3 500 farming families resumed agricultural activities and the productivity of critical livestock was improved.

- Programme activities in Madagascar supported the 2013/2014 emergency campaign in response to the locust plague. FAO provided inputs essential for the safe and effective implementation of treatment operations, such as pesticides, spraying equipment, aerial operations, vehicles and other equipment.
- In Mali, FAO's support bolstered the livelihoods of 2 500 vulnerable pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households in Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou. In addition to vaccination and deworming activities and the provision of health care for livestock, trainings and workshops were conducted on resilient farming techniques and sustainable rangeland management.
- 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 aims to help local communities 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.

Horn of Africa window

36. During the reporting period, USD 4.2 million was allocated by Norway and Canada to support FAO's emergency programme in Ethiopia and Somalia. The following table shows the allocation of funds, which were used to increase the resilience of pastoralists to drought and related livelihood shocks.

Table 12. Funding provided under the Horn of Africa window

Beneficiary country	Donor	Amount received (USD 000)
Ethiopia, Federal Democratic Republic of	Norway	1 278
Somalia	Norway	2 000
	Canada	919
	Total	4 197

37. In addition to recurrent droughts, floods and conflict, vulnerable populations in the Horn of Africa are adversely affected by highly variable climate patterns, displacement, and HIV and AIDS. The funds allocated under the SFERA Horn of Africa window were critical in delivering agricultural assistance to prevent food crises from worsening, while also limiting the negative impact of further reductions in food supplies. FAO's support focused on strengthening early warning systems to enable an early response to future disasters. SFERA funding was used to improved beneficiaries' resilience to drought by scaling up successful cash-for-work programmes to stimulate both local markets and the production of smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

Sahel Crisis window

38. 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.

Table 13. Funding provided under the Sahel Crisis window

Beneficiary country	Donor	Amount received (USD 000)
Niger	Norway	1 633
	Total	1 633

39. 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.

Locust Campaign window

40. During the reporting period, USD 1.8 million was allocated by France and Norway to the programme in Madagascar.

Table 14. Funding provided under the Locust Campaign window

Beneficiary country	Donor	Amount received (USD 000)
Madagascar	France	1 341
	Norway	492
	Total	1 833

41. 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, 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. During the implementation of all programme activities, efforts were made to mitigate the impact of locust control operations on human health and the environment. The timely contribution of donors ensured continuity of field operations and, in February 2013, the establishment of the Locust Watch Unit. In April 2014, FAO launched procurement activities for a second campaign beginning in September 2014. This campaign will ensure

that locust mitigation and eradication efforts are not interrupted, which is crucial to stopping the plague and returning to a state of remission.

Typhoon and Hurricanes window

42. During the reporting period, Canada, Norway, Switzerland and Ireland contributed USD 10.5 million to the SFERA Typhoon and Hurricanes window.

Table 15. Funding provided under the Typhoon and Hurricanes window

Beneficiary country	Donor	Amount received (USD 000)
The Philippines	Switzerland	1 096
	Norway	3 286
	Ireland	681
	Canada	5 468
	Total	10 531

43. 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 in 2013. 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

47. SFERA is essential to FAO's continued ability to provide rapid, high-impact emergency assistance to the most vulnerable populations affected by disaster. Moreover, access to SFERA funding enables FAO to successfully deliver its new Strategic Objective, "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. 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.