



**How many people are still affected by the current crisis?**

The number of people still requiring emergency assistance now stands at **9.5 million** (down from 13.3 million people in September 2011).

More specifically the numbers per country are:

Djibouti	210,000
Kenya	3,750,000
Ethiopia	3,200,000
Somalia	2,340,000

**Why does famine no longer exist?**

There has been a significant improvement in the food security situation in southern Somalia as a result of the good harvest and the significant humanitarian assistance (both life saving and livelihood support).

**How is famine declared?**

Famine is not a rhetorical, emotive term. Rather it is a scientific classification based on standards, evidence, and technical consensus using the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

From the IPC perspective, a crisis is considered a famine (IPC Phase 5) when one or a combination of the following outcomes are evident in a given area: at least 20 percent of the total population in a given area are on the brink of starvation due to lack of food, livelihoods are completely collapsed and households have exhausted their ability to cope, acute malnutrition rates are greater than 30 percent of the population, and/or mortality rates exceed two people per 10 000 per day.

**What is the situation in Somalia now?**

While famine no longer exists, there are still 2.34 million people in crisis which represents 31 percent of the population – of which 1.7 million are in the south. Additionally, 325 000 children are acutely malnourished – of which 70 percent are in southern regions.

Technically, southern Somalia moves from IPC Phase 5 to Phase 4 (Humanitarian Emergency).

**How did FAO contribute to eradicate famine?**

As part of its emergency response, FAO targeted 3.95 million Somali farmers and herders. Activities included:

- Distributing 2 482 tonnes of improved maize, sesame and sorghum seeds;
- Distributing 345 tonnes of fertilizers;
- Rehabilitating 594 kms of canals that help to channel water into farms; and
- Treating 2.6 million livestock at risk of opportunistic diseases and infections associated with the drought.

Even before the famine crisis began, FAO was already working with more than 1 million farmers and pastoralists across Somalia.

**Could famine return?**

The situation is still incredibly fragile in the south, in spite of recent gains and any further shocks such as a below normal *Gu* rains (Long rains season April-June) leading to a poor harvest, increased military activity leading to displacement, disease outbreaks, restrictions on trade flow and more suspension of food access agencies, will lead to a rapid decline in the situation and return to famine in localized agro pastoral and riverine areas in the worst case scenario.

**Many aid agencies have withdrawn from Somalia, how does FAO manage to continue its operations?**

The situation in southern Somalia is fluid, but where as most aid agencies have been expelled from the south and south central, FAO has maintained presence in the country. This is simply because our work, which involves direct dealings with farmers' and veterinary associations, is largely viewed as non-political and non-religious and we continue to make this extremely clear to all partners that we are neutral players.

**What areas in Somalia is FAO working in?**

FAO is working in all regions of Somalia through an extensive network of over 50 partners across Somalia.

**Is FAO facing access issues in Somalia?**

No. Because of the nature of our interventions, FAO focus' on livelihoods which are considered non-political and non-religious.

**What role does Cash-for-Work play in the emergency response process?**

In Somalia, for example, part of the emergency response by WFP, UNICEF and FAO is now based on cash-for-work and food vouchers programmes. This creates win-win situations linking local consumption to local production, and helps bridge the gap that often exists between emergency assistance and development. Linking the two offers a way out of protracted crisis and into development.

**How long has FAO been in Somalia?**

FAO has been working in Somalia since early 1970's but in an emergency capacity we started work there in 2004.

**Why is support to agriculture necessary in the HoA?**

Failure to protect the livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists during the onset of a crisis can increase long-term risks and costs.

About 80 percent of people in the Horn of Africa rely on agriculture and livestock as their primary source of food and income. It is therefore vital that we help farmers and herders to help themselves.

Empowerment builds resilience, which will better enable them to withstand inevitable droughts and climate-related disasters in the future.

**If drought is becoming a chronic feature of the region, how can farmers and pastoralists continue this form of livelihood in the HoA?**

It is not drought but rather vulnerability during drought that has thrown the sub-region into repeated food crises. Pastoralism (and agropastoralism) is a dynamic and sustainable livelihood system in the HoA, but it needs support and diversification to reduce livelihood vulnerability. Drought triggers livelihood crises, but the underlying causes of vulnerability lie also in other factors, not just natural causes, and this is often to do with inadequate support to economic, social and political coping mechanisms. Conflict is also a major source of vulnerability. With the right support, the pastoral economy can thrive and contribute extensively to national economies in the HoA region.