



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

HORN OF AFRICA **CROSS-BORDER** DROUGHT ACTION PLAN 2017



Required response to safeguard livestock-based livelihoods in cross-border areas
of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda

March – June 2017

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Summary

To **safeguard the livelihoods** of drought-affected pastoral and agropastoral households and **improve food security and nutrition** in vulnerable **cross-border areas** of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda,



FAO requires \$39.6 million



to reach 363 000 households



owning 7.1 million livestock

IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SAVE LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS



Feed access

Hay, multinutrient blocks, pellets, mixed rations, fodder production



March-June

Water access

Water tanks



March-May

Animal health

Prophylactic treatment against endemic diseases and parasites



March-June

BOOST INCOME TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



Slaughter destocking

Cash to vulnerable pastoralists, provision of meat to food insecure community members



March-April

Cash-for-work

Cash-for-work to deepen traditional wells, desilt water sources, safe carcass disposal



March-June

REGIONAL MONITORING AND COORDINATION



Monitoring, coordination and support

Monitoring and analysis of livestock movements, body conditions, pasture availability and cross-border markets; provide technical support



March-June

Drought in the Horn of Africa

Drought situation and impact

The ongoing drought is widespread, and the situation is deteriorating faster than even expected. Conditions are extremely worrying across southern and southeastern Ethiopia, northern and coastal Kenya, almost all of Somalia, southeastern South Sudan and northeastern Uganda.

In 2016, as little as one-quarter of expected rainfall was received during the October–December rainfall season across most of the region. The long rains in March–May were already erratic and below average; the recently failed short rains extended the already long dry season, having severe implications for food security, nutrition, livelihoods and peace.

Droughts in the Horn of Africa have been increasing in severity and frequency, and aggravated by desertification, land degradation and climate change. With multiple consecutive years of poor rains, dry spells and drought, including the El Niño-induced drought in 2015/16, there has been little to no recovery among affected households – particularly those dependent on livestock for their food and income. In the Horn's arid and semi-arid lands, the dominant livelihood systems are agropastoralism and pastoralism, for which pasture and water scarcity is a constant challenge. Pastoralists and agropastoralists are among the most affected by what has become chronic vulnerability to food insecurity, economic and environmental shocks and resource-based conflicts.

In affected areas of the Horn of Africa, water is increasingly scarce and rangelands bare. Rivers and water points are drying faster than normal, and reaching alarmingly low levels. Across the region, livestock are starving and rapidly losing condition. Immune systems are weakened, increasing risk and incidences of opportunistic and endemic livestock disease outbreaks, and increasing the debilitating effects of internal and external parasites. Tens of thousands of animals have already died of disease or starvation, especially affecting cattle and sheep. In many areas, livestock reproduction has halted.

In search of feed and water for their livestock, migration is increasing both within and across national borders. Experts have noted that this year, pastoral migration is random and opportunistic – herders are moving to pocket areas speculated to have grazing availability. Some pastoralists are migrating to protected conservation areas, having negative consequences for environmental gains and increasing risk of disease transmission between wild animals and livestock. Tensions and conflict are increasing due to competition over limited natural resources, overgrazing, damage to the land of settled farmers, livestock theft and disease outbreaks as increasingly weak livestock crowd around fewer water points.

In most-affected areas, there is effectively no demand for livestock, which are rapidly losing value. Prices have plummeted – in cross-border areas, sheep and goats now sell for about one-third the normal price, and cattle and camels fetch only half their normal market value. For example, in Somalia's Buale market, a goat could be traded for about 114 kg of maize in January 2016, but at today's prices can be traded for only 30 kg of grain. Sales of live animals make up the bulk of pastoralists' earnings; in drought-affected areas, incomes are declining and households are left with extremely limited alternatives.

At the same time, local prices for staple foods have skyrocketed, and are increasing as local availability diminishes. Regional harvests were below-average at the end of 2016, following poor main harvests earlier in the year. For example, grain prices in January doubled compared with last year in central and southern Somalia. In Uganda, maize prices are reaching near-record levels.

Conditions are becoming alarming in drought-affected areas, with more and more families reporting that they are eating less, less often and what they do eat is less nutritionally diverse. Dependence on food aid is increasing. In the Horn of Africa, severe food insecurity has dramatically increased in recent months – doubling in Kenya and Somalia, quadrupling in Uganda and in Ethiopia, the number of food insecure districts has increased by one quarter. In mid-February, the drought was declared a national emergency in Kenya. Famine was declared in South Sudan, and has been alerted as real risk in Somalia if the next rains are below average.

Protein-rich foods are increasingly out of reach for vulnerable pastoralists. Household production of milk and meat is very low, and the local prices of milk and other dairy products is increasing – for example, the price of milk has increased by 40 percent in Somalia's Gedo region. Malnutrition rates among children are high, and are increasing as the lean season continues. Milk is the main source of protein for pastoralists; when it is not available, households typically increase their cereal intake – but with very high staple food prices, households are increasingly forced to sell their productive assets or borrow food and money to survive.

The situation will continue to deteriorate not only until the next rains, but until pastures regenerate if sufficient rainfall is received. Forecasts for the next season from the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum indicate that the next rains may be below-normal in most drought-hit areas – the expected onset of the rains is early to mid-April, and the duration just four to six weeks. If realized, this would mean a third poor season of rainfall for most affected communities, if not more. This would be particularly disastrous in Somalia, where the aversion of famine hinges on good performance of the coming season.

A regional crisis

Severe drought is searing across the region, having significant impacts on relatively similar eco- and livelihood systems along and across national borders. The Horn of Africa is recording mass migration as households and their livestock search for grazing and water; transboundary dynamics are becoming increasingly important in this crisis as communities attempt to cope with the drought.

Drought often exacerbates conflict as households scramble for limited pasture and water sources. Long-running disputes over access to natural resources in arid regions have also worsened inter-clan ties, complicating governments' capacity to restore stability in pastoral areas. Cattle raiding may increase as pastoralists seek to restock herds depleted by the drought and preceding poor seasons. Cross-border clashes have the capacity to undermine the humanitarian response in the region, and further disrupt livestock production.

An estimated 85 percent of livestock are on the move in the region according to the recent Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)–Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) assessment, which also found that 380 000 pastoral and agropastoral households are extremely vulnerable in cross-border areas. Current movements are considered abnormal in terms of timing and destination; and in some areas, entire households are migrating. Driven by the sole objective of saving as many livestock as possible, such mass movements considerably increase the risk of conflict, as well as overgrazing and increased outbreak of disease.

Attention must also be paid to another type of cross-border movement in the region – displacement. This remains a profound concern in the region; the food security and nutrition of refugees and internally displaced persons are consistently low in drought-affected areas. Having spurred the largest refugee crisis in Africa, armed conflict, a collapsing economy and alarming levels of hunger have driven millions of South Sudanese from their homes. In Somalia, a combination of violence and drought are increasing population movements.

In the Horn of Africa, cross-border areas require specific attention during drought crises. Under the IGAD Drought Disaster and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), FAO recognizes that drought does not respect international boundaries, though country-level responses are limited to national borders. Rural areas at the periphery of these borders are often less prioritized, though the needs there are not only high, but more dynamic – especially in consideration of migration for trade, pasture, water, etc. – which are not always captured in national plans.

Stronger cross-border approaches are crucial to effectively counter deteriorating health and nutrition conditions. Owing to the high concentrations of people and livestock in and moving through cross-border areas – and as these areas at the periphery of national borders are often under-served –, a targeted cross-border response that complements national-level and local interventions is critically needed to respond to the regional crisis.

Priority livelihood response actions

There is a small window of opportunity to minimize livestock losses, and response is needed now.

In 2017, FAO requires over USD 281 million to respond to the livelihood needs of agriculture- and livestock-dependent households in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. As part of these FAO national plans, this FAO Horn of Africa Cross-Border Drought Action Plan is appealing for USD 39.6 million to respond in cross-border areas of these countries, targeting 7.1 million livestock belonging to 363 000 households.

With the overall aim of safeguarding livelihoods in drought-affected areas to improve food security and nutrition and preventing protracted dependence on relief operations, the Action Plan is organized under three outputs: (i) immediate action to save livestock-based livelihoods; (ii) boost income to support food security and nutrition; and (iii) regional monitoring and coordination.

The FAO Horn of Africa Cross-Border Drought Action Plan has a duration of four months for emergency response, and will be revised based on prevailing and emerging needs in the coming months. This should be followed by a more comprehensive recovery programme with a reinforced early warning–early action system and resilience-oriented activities to increase preparedness capacities to better mitigate further crises.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SAVE LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Minimizing livestock losses is the most critical and immediate challenge in drought-affected cross-border areas. In pastoral communities, livestock represent a lifetime of savings; when animals die, pastoralists are left with little or nothing to sustain them. Saving their core breeding stock – the animals that will replenish the herds when pasture conditions improve – will not only restore livelihoods, but contribute to a reduction in poverty and build resilience to future shocks. Immediate livelihood response must consider two groups: livestock belonging to resident communities (often these are lactating animals, kept at home to sustain milk availability) and migrating herds. In both cases, core breeding stock should be prioritized to benefit most from emergency interventions.

Access to livestock feed

With the next rains not expected until late March or early April, livestock-holding households urgently need access to survival and supplementary feeding until pastures are likely to regenerate (by May in most areas). By providing both roughage (e.g. hay) and concentrates (e.g. multinutrient blocks, pellets, mixed rations) sufficient to sustain resident core breeding livestock for two months, weight loss will be restricted and health status promoted until rangelands recover.

To boost local availability of fodder, seeds of fast-growing forage and grasses will be provided along with technical support to households in riverine areas, those with access to irrigation or in areas where rainfall is expected to be good. Benefiting households would have access to feed as little as six weeks after planting.

Water access for livestock

Immediate access to water will remain critical throughout the region. FAO will prioritize providing water tanks where possible in areas where water is scarce. This will not only help sustain resident livestock, but enable migrating livestock to continue their treks. Special attention will be given to the rehabilitation and maintenance of existing and operational boreholes and well networks to ensure sustainable sources of water for livestock.

Animal health

To improve survival rates, veterinary care should be a main priority, especially as migration continues to bring resident and moving herds into contact. Migrating herds should be given special attention as with the first rains, the grass will not be very nutritive, and parasites are likely to thrive in renewed grazing areas. Animal health activities should include prophylactic treatments against endemic diseases and parasites, as well as the provision of multivitamins to boost immunity, and engaging community-based animal health services and local disease reporting systems wherever possible. To optimize response impacts on livestock survival, it is planned that the intervention will complement the emergency feed interventions, including those being carried out by Government, NGOs and other organizations in the target areas.



BOOST INCOME TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Enhancing access to cash will allow families to afford their most pressing needs, and prevent them from selling their assets out of desperation. This should include cash-for-work activities to improve existing infrastructure and provide needed services. Slaughter destocking will provide pastoralists with much-needed cash and food insecure community members, including pastoral dropouts and destitute families, with protein-rich meat while reducing pressure on limited resources.

Slaughter destocking

Slaughter destocking will be prioritized to provide much-needed income to vulnerable pastoral households while relieving pressure on limited feed and water resources. Destocking would also reduce the number of livestock needing emergency feeding, especially those whose chances of survival are slim. The cash provided for the sale of the livestock will enable pastoralists to meet immediate needs (such as purchasing food) and prevent them from selling their livestock – enhancing their ability to recover. Once destocked, the animals will be made available for local slaughter, closely adhering to hygienic standards and socially accepted practices, with the resulting meat provided to food insecure community members, thereby improving food consumption.

Cash-for-work

Providing cash transfers in exchange for work – e.g. deepening traditional wells, desilting water sources and hygienically disposing of carcasses – will enable households to avoid deepening vulnerability by meeting their immediate needs (food purchase) and preventing them from selling their productive assets at very low prices. The work would contribute to humanitarian response; by deepening traditional wells or rehabilitating boreholes, communities' access to water would increase in a sustainable way, enhancing water recharge and watering rate. Livestock carcasses are a regular sight in cross-border areas, and pose significant health risks; by hygienically disposing of livestock carcasses, human health would be protected.



REGIONAL MONITORING AND COORDINATION

Regional coordination will be critical to ensuring complementarity of the responses, as well as monitoring the situation to ensure that response actions are implemented where and when they are needed most. Monitoring the situation will be critical to improving the availability of up-to-date information and adjusting response actions accordingly. This should include the tracking of livestock movements, as well as monitoring pasture and livestock health and body conditions to improve national- and subnational-level planning and decision-making, with a focus on the importance of cross-border dynamics.

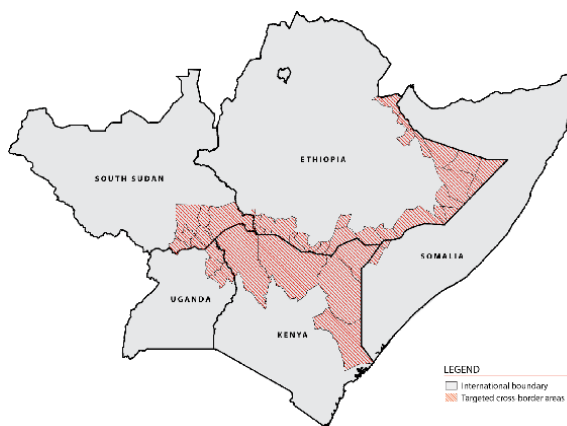
Subregional



FAO requires
USD 3.6 million



to support to cross-border activities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda



Regional monitoring, coordination and technical support



\$5.3 million



March-June

Herd movements, livestock body condition and markets monitoring

FAO aims to monitor herd movements and livestock body conditions in each cross-border cluster to assist country- and local-level actors to respond with necessary action (e.g. feed, water, animal health). In addition, FAO plans to monitor and document livestock body conditions in cross-border areas through the Pictorial Evaluation Tool (PET), a mobile app developed from an approach used by experts over the past decade. The Tool allows technicians to rapidly assess the body conditions of livestock in any location without touching their bodies, allowing for mass information gathering, in real time. PET quantifies the findings for analysis and decision-making and enables field workers to monitor changes in the same herds over time, as well as between similar herds in different locations. Furthermore, prices in cross-border markets will be monitored, especially for livestock and livestock products, including regional exports, and key staple commodities in the target areas to track pastoralists' and agropastoralists' terms of trade.

Pasture monitoring

FAO plans to conduct a feed and forage availability study to inform immediate and mid-term planning and response. Further, to have an accurate picture of rangeland conditions on the ground and predict pasture availability over the following six months, FAO plans to scale out its initiative currently being implemented in Kenya to Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. The Predictive Livestock Early Warning Information System (PLEWS) uses normalized difference vegetation index data and models it against edible vegetation (based on high resolution satellite imagery and ground truthing), surface water availability and past data. By expanding PLEWS analysis to neighbouring countries affected by the drought, FAO will be better able to gauge and predict issues affecting cross-border dynamics.

Regional coordination and technical support

Given the transboundary nature of the crisis, regional-level coordination needs to be strengthened – especially at local levels, involving cross-border counterparts – to improve coverage, identify complementarities, ensure harmonization and avoid duplication to maximize efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian responses. FAO will work to strengthen the efforts of the Regional Livestock and Pastoralism Working Group to enhance livestock response in the region. To support country-level implementation of response actions, FAO regional and global experts will provide backstopping and surge capacity, engaging corporate expertise in livestock, cash transfers, disaster risk reduction and resilience in technical and policy support. Further, advocacy on the prevailing situation will be enhanced, including through the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group.

Ethiopia



FAO requires
USD 8.9 million



to reach
23 200 households
in cross-border areas



Following the 2015/16 El Niño-induced drought, new drought is hitting parts of Ethiopia that were largely unaffected last year, though some lowland areas have now experienced several consecutive seasons of poor rainfall. Nationally, about 5.6 million people are food insecure, and 1.4 million households need urgent livestock assistance in southern and southeastern areas affected by the ongoing drought, with many families experiencing low food consumption owing to poor terms of trade and limited livestock production. Prices for livestock are drastically low, while the costs of cereal and dairy products have soared. Pasture is scarce and water sources rapidly depleting; livestock are increasingly emaciated and thousands have already died. Ethiopian, Kenyan and Somali herders are migrating within and across borders in search of water and pasture, causing tensions to rise in some areas. While the Government is responding, the Humanitarian Requirements Document highlights that USD 35 million is needed by humanitarian partners to address livelihood needs in drought-affected pastoral and agropastoral areas.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SAVE LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Feed access and animal health



\$6.4 million



March-June

FAO aims to provide 23 200 households with hay and feed concentrates to sustain their animals for a duration of two months, until the rains are expected to regenerate pastures. Animal health activities will support the same households, and include treatments against internal and external parasites, antibiotics and vitamin supplements. FAO also plans to provide fast-growing forage seed to households with access to irrigation, enabling them to harvest in as little as six weeks.



BOOST INCOME TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Slaughter destocking



\$2.1 million



March-April

About 12 800 pastoralists will benefit from the purchase of 21 000 unproductive, non-core breeding stock, allowing them to purchase food, livestock feed and other needs with the cash received. This will also enable them to focus resources on their remaining animals, and prevent further stress sales of productive assets. FAO will facilitate the immediate, local slaughter of these animals, and distribute the meat to 19 500 food insecure households in the community.

Cash-for-work



\$395 000



March-June

FAO plans to improve income generation among 2 450 households through cash-for-work activities, including carcass disposal to mitigate negative impacts on human health, and deepening traditional wells to improve recharge and longer-term water access. With the income earned from two months of cash-for-work activities, beneficiaries will be better able to afford immediate household needs, including food.



FAO Ethiopia requires USD 20 million for its Drought Response Plan and Priorities for 2017, targeting 1 million households with livestock activities, livelihood support in refugee-hosting areas and agricultural support. Funding requirements for livestock activities in targeted cross-border areas represent 45% of the Ethiopia plan.

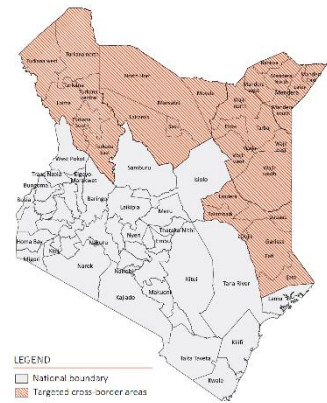
Kenya



FAO requires
USD 10.9 million



to reach
213 700 households
in cross-border areas



By February, the number of severely food insecure in Kenya more than doubled – from 1.3 million people to 2.7 million. On 10 February 2017, the Government declared the drought a national disaster, with 23 of the country's 47 counties affected. The main livelihood activity in drought-affected cross-border areas is pastoralism – herders are significantly affected by scarce pasture and water, and are migrating within the country and to Uganda and Ethiopia to save their animals. Terms of trade are rapidly declining for pastoralists, with surging cereal and dairy prices and livestock fetching record-low prices in some areas according to the FAO–IGAD cross-border assessment. Livestock are starving, contracting disease and dying at alarming rates, affecting household food consumption. The Government is leading the drought response, having pledged USD 220 million. However, the humanitarian community has been requested to fill the remaining gap of USD 110 million, and livestock-based livelihood needs are rising.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SAVE LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Feed and water access and animal health



\$7 million



March-June

To reduce livestock losses due to feed scarcity, FAO aims to assist 213 700 households through animal health support, including treatments against internal and external parasites, antibiotic treatments and vitamin supplements. Of these, about 19 500 households will be provided with hay and feed concentrates, enough to sustain their livestock for two months. The production of fast-growing fodder will be supported for households with access to irrigation.



BOOST INCOME TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Slaughter destocking



\$3.5 million



March-April

FAO aims to purchase 94 900 unproductive, non-core breeding stock from 49 800 vulnerable pastoral households, enabling beneficiaries to purchase food, livestock feed and other needs, as well as prevent them from selling more livestock at very low prices. The purchased livestock will be made available for immediate local slaughter, with the resulting meat distributed to 27 500 food insecure community members.

Cash-for-work



\$400 000



March-June

FAO plans to employ 1 950 households through cash-for-work activities, including carcass disposal and the deepening of traditional wells. With target beneficiaries engaged for two months, they will be able to earn income to meet household needs, including the purchase of food.



FAO Kenya is appealing for USD 30 million in 2017 as part of its drought response plan for the country, including livestock support, strengthened coordination and support to livelihood recovery. Funding requirements for livestock activities in targeted cross-border areas represent 36% of the overall Kenya plan.

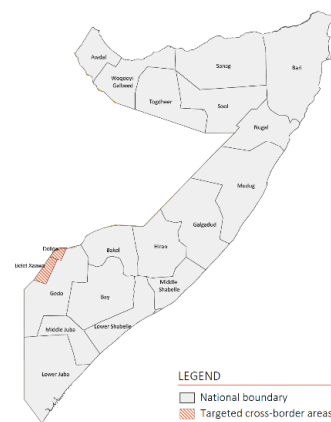
Somalia



FAO requires
USD 4 million



to reach
4 700 households
in cross-border areas



In Somalia, the drought was declared a national disaster on 28 February. Just weeks earlier, the number of severely food insecure people more than doubled to 2.9 million within six months. Malnutrition rates are rising, especially among children – about 363 000 acutely malnourished children need urgent treatment and nutrition support, including 71 000 who are severely malnourished. With households facing the knock-on effects of two to three poor rainfall seasons, rising food prices, access limitations and negative forecasts for the coming main season, the risk of famine is very real for thousands of people.

Severe pasture and water deficits have led to poor livestock body conditions, resulting in very low milk production and low livestock prices. With the cost of food rising, terms of trade are increasingly disavouring livestock owners – and especially for those whose only economic activity is pastoralism. In Gedo Region, the most vulnerable are those located furthest from the Dawa and Juba Rivers, which are drying much more rapidly than expected. Households there have reported adopting extreme coping strategies, including the slaughtering of young calves and no longer milking their cows. Livestock disease outbreaks are increasing, and migration – while occurring – is limited as the animals are too weak to travel, and neighbouring areas are experiencing similar pasture and water shortages; many have deemed the costs of leaving too high to risk the trek.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SAVE LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Animal feed



\$4 million



March-June

To address significant feed shortages and complement ongoing animal health initiatives by partners, FAO plans to reach 4 000 livestock-holding households in Dolow and Belet Xaawa in Gedo Region with animal feed, including hay and feed concentrates, such as ranch cubes. The feed will be enough to sustain beneficiaries' livestock over a period of two months, through to the next rains, when pastures are expected to regenerate. An additional 700 households in riverine areas with access to irrigation will receive planting materials for fast-growing varieties of fodder crops, such as cowpea and sorghum; in as little as six weeks, households will be able to harvest the crop for their own consumption and feed the crop residues to their livestock.



FAO Somalia is appealing for USD 160 million in 2017 under its Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan to reach 840 900 households across the country with unconditional cash transfers, cash-for-work, "Cash+" (providing agricultural and fishing inputs with cash transfers) and emergency livestock treatment, water trucking and fodder. Funding requirements for livestock activities in targeted cross-border areas represent 2.5% of the overall Somalia plan.

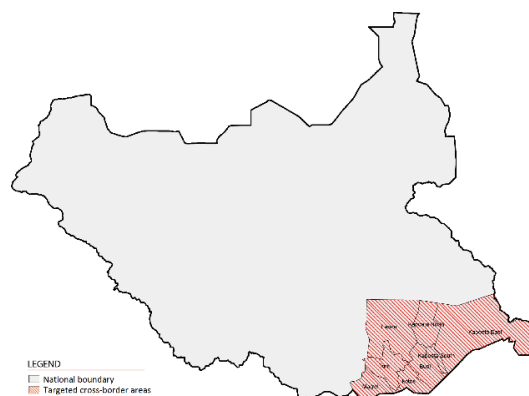
South Sudan



FAO requires
USD 1.5 million



to reach
22 000 households
in cross-border areas



According to the latest food security and nutrition analysis in February, 4.9 million people – more than 40 percent of South Sudan’s population – are in need of urgent food, agriculture and nutrition assistance. Famine has been declared in some parts of Unity, affecting 100 000 people. Food insecurity levels are extremely alarming throughout the country due to conflict, a collapsing economy and poor rainfall in southeastern areas. In Eastern Equatoria – one of the drought-hit areas – the latest food security and nutrition assessments in November 2016 revealed that households experiencing poor food consumption nearly doubled from 19 to 37 percent when compared with the same time in 2015. Rainfall deficits were widely reported in the area, with 93 percent of households indicating this was a major shock during the last agricultural season, impacting pasture and water availability and local food production. Climatic forecasting indicates these areas are likely to experience depressed rainfall between March to May 2017.

Given poor forecasts and the high likelihood of increased violent conflict, northward migration of cattle is not a viable option. Pastoralists are migrating south into Uganda, leaving behind households with small livestock holdings that are in poor condition and selling at throwaway prices as food prices continue to skyrocket. The ever decreasing terms of trade have become more unfavourable to these households, and asset stripping is rampant as they must sell more animals to afford food for themselves. The number of households reporting high food prices as a shock in these areas surged from 2 percent in 2015 to 60 percent in 2016. It is projected that the population in this area, whose major source of food and income is livestock, will continue facing crisis food insecurity for as long as dry conditions persist.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SAVE LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Animal health



\$1.5 million



March-June

To prevent livestock losses in drought-affected southeastern areas of South Sudan, FAO aims to assist 22 000 pastoral and agropastoral households through animal health interventions, including treatments against internal and external parasites and endemic and infectious diseases. The Organization will engage community-based animal health workers wherever possible, providing the equipment and inputs they need to deliver urgently needed veterinary services. FAO will target not only large migrating herds, but also resident livestock.



As part of its Emergency Livelihood Response Programme, FAO South Sudan is appealing for USD 61 million to provide livelihood support to over 650 000 households across the country in 2017, including livestock health, emergency livelihood kits, seed production, food security analysis, information management and cluster coordination. Funding requirements for livestock activities in targeted cross-border areas represent 2.5% of the overall South Sudan plan.

Uganda



FAO requires
USD 10.7 million



to reach
99 400 households
in cross-border areas



In Uganda, the number of people facing severe food insecurity has quadrupled – from 390 000 people from July to November 2016 to nearly 1.6 million in February 2017. Harvests were again below average owing to poor seasonal rains, and food consumption patterns are deteriorating in drought-affected pastoral areas of eastern Uganda (mainly in Karamoja Region). Food prices are climbing, with the price of maize 75 percent above the previous year. While grazing conditions are declining the southeast, pasture and water are generally more available than in neighbouring drought-hit countries. For this reason, the country has seen a massive influx of pastoralists and livestock from South Sudan and Kenya, which is straining social cohesion.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SAVE LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Animal health



\$4.9 million



March-June

FAO plans to assist 99 400 pastoral and agropastoral households through animal health interventions, which will be provided through a voucher system, and include treating livestock against internal and external parasites, antibiotic treatment and vitamin supplements to improve immunity. FAO will target livestock primarily belonging to households facing Stressed and Crisis levels of food insecurity.



BOOST INCOME TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Slaughter destocking



\$2.2 million



March-April

Under the slaughter destocking component, FAO plans to purchase 61 500 unproductive non-core breeding stock (including cattle, goats and sheep) at fair prices from 21 500 vulnerable pastoral households. The cash injection will allow benefiting pastoralists to buy food for their families, feed for their animals and other household needs, as well as allow them to focus resources on their core breeding animals and prevent further stress sales. The purchased animals will be made available for immediate local slaughter, with the resulting meat distributed to 19 800 food insecure community members.

Cash-for-work



\$3.6 million



March-June

FAO plans to engage 12 250 households in cash-for-work activities, providing income for desilting water catchments and constructing new valley tanks while enhancing access to safe water for local communities. Combined use of surface and groundwater will be promoted, and ongoing rangeland restoration, improvement and management activities will be intensified (including haymaking). Beneficiaries will be employed for two months, with the income earned enabling households to afford their most pressing needs, including the purchase of food.



FAO Uganda is appealing for USD 10.7 million to respond in cross-border areas of Karamoja Region, which represents its plan for drought response in 2017.

Implementation arrangements and budget

FAO's Resilience Team for Eastern Africa and Country Offices work in close collaboration with respective Governments to identify emerging issues and have been at the forefront of coordinating regional and national emergencies and resilience interventions to respond to the needs of farmers, agropastoralists and pastoralists in the Horn of Africa. Regular support to and close interaction with national and local authorities and FAO Country Offices responding to the ongoing drought provides real-time information and the required flexibility modifying and appropriately prioritizing response options with the changing nature of needs on the ground. FAO will leverage its support from its Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) to provide overall guidance and support to the animal health and disease control component of the cross-border response.

The response under the Horn of Africa Cross-Border Drought Action Plan will take advantage of FAO's network of field offices located in cross-border administrative areas, such as Jijiga in Ethiopia, Marsabit and Turkana in Kenya, Torit in South Sudan and Karamoja in Uganda. These offices are critical in the coordination of cross-border activities on the ground.

The design, planning and implementation of cross-border response actions in the region are guided by common principles, including the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, which outlines optimal actions to improve the quality and livelihoods impact of livestock-related projects in humanitarian situations. The response will further contribute to ongoing regional initiatives, including IDDRSI.

This Action Plan recognizes traditional coping mechanisms and through direct engagement of relevant parties, will work in coordination with Governments, NGOs, community-based organizations, private sector actors and other stakeholders to ensure complementarity and efficiency of the ongoing response actions.

Project teams will monitor FAO activities throughout the implementation period to ensure interventions are carried out as planned and to identify and address any challenges affecting the achievement of the objectives of the Action Plan. Findings and recommendations from monitoring activities will be discussed with the stakeholders involved for appropriate follow-up action.

Estimated budget

IMMEDIATE ACTION TO SAVE LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS	
Feed access	USD 15 496 000
Water access	USD 225 000
Animal health	USD 8 024 000
BOOST INCOME TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION	
Slaughter destocking	USD 7 866 000
Cash-for-work	USD 4 389 000
REGIONAL MONITORING AND COORDINATION	
Regional monitoring, coordination and support	USD 3 600 000
TOTAL	USD 39 600 000



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