

Food and Security Working Group (FSNWG)

2.30 pm, Thursday, 3rd September 2009

FAO Regional Emergency Office for Africa (REOA)

Present:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Mark Gordon	WFP	Gemma Sanmartin	Coopi
Chele De Gruccio	WVI	Douglas Elliott	USAID/OFDA
Peppino Stefano Disperati	VSF-B	Jose Lopez	ECHO
Justus Liku	Care	Elizabeth Narrow	FAO Kenya
Peter Hailey	UNICEF	Aida Ndiaye	FAO REOA
Abraham Afewerti	ACF	Francesco Del Re	FAO REOA
Wondimu Woloe	ACF	Cyril Ferrand	FAO REOA
Mohamed Suleiman	FEWSNET	Sophie Green	FAO REOA
Andrew Odero	FEWSNET	Bruno Minjauw	FAO REOA
Allison Oman	UNHCR		

Agenda:

- 1) **Update and discussion on the Food Security situation in the Central and Eastern Africa Region (Francesco Del Re, FAO REOA)**
- 2) **Update on the Nutrition situation in the Horn of Africa (Peter Hailey, UNICEF)**
- 3) **Other**

Francesco Del Re welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked them for their presence. He then proceeded to announce the meeting agenda.

Review of Action points from the previous meeting :

Action points	Who	When	Comments
Compile and inter-agency release (4 pages) giving a country and regional overview of the FSN situation in the GHoA.	FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, OCHA	By the 3 rd week of August 2009	done
Enquire on the Humanitarian dashboard prototype for access to FSNWG members.	Francesco Del Re (FAO REOA)	By next FSNWG meeting, September 3 rd , 2009.	done

1) Update and discussion on the Food Security situation in the Central and Eastern Africa Region (Francesco Del Re, FAO REOA)

Francesco Del Re gave a short presentation on the latest update of the food security situation in the Great Horn of Africa (GHOA). According to the latest information available¹ (August end August 2009) the situation is deteriorating and projections through December show a large part of the GHOA in phase 3 (Acute food and livelihood crisis) to 4 (Humanitarian Emergency) with some 20 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

- *Displaced populations and conflicts*

It is estimated that there are 10.4 million IDPs in the region. While resettlement continues in Northern Uganda, and IDP numbers in Darfour and DRC is stable, new displacements took place in Somalia and more than 8 000 refugees from Somalia are flowing into Kenya every month. The capacity of the Dadaab refugee camps is overstretched and even though some refugees are being relocated to Kakuma the assistance package is. Conflict areas remain the same in Somalia, Eastern Ethiopia, East DRC, Darfur, CAR/Chad border.

- *Volatile food prices*

Food prices in the GHOA are still abnormally high despite some sign of decrease. A similar pattern is visible in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania, where the peak of food prices has passed and the situation has either stabilized or is on the decrease but remains well above the last five years average

- *Rainfall and vegetation*

In terms of rainfall and vegetation, the HoA is particularly dry compared to Central and Southern Africa. Vegetation development is well below average in parts of Uganda, Tanzania, Southern Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and north Tanzania. According to recent analysis of remote sensed information, precipitation was between 20-50 percent below average in several areas of the HoA. These severe dry conditions have constrained agricultural and livestock production and are among the main drivers of food insecurity in the region

On a more positive note, according to the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC) normal to above normal rains are forecasted for the forthcoming rainy season of October to December 2009. However it cannot be expected that the food security situation in the region will improve until the harvesting season early 2010. Possible damages and lack of access of some areas in relation to possible floods are also of concern.

- *Livestock (Bruno Minjauw, FAO REOA)*

Due to prevailing dry conditions abnormal movement of livestock has been noted and it has been reported that approximately 250 000 animals moved from Northern Kenya into Southern Ethiopia. It is feared that this movement may trigger outbreaks of diseases. A risk of Rift Valley Fever is also foreseen for the coming rainy season.

¹ Note that updated information on the food security situation in Southern Sudan, CAR and Rwanda is pending.

- *Trans-boundary crop diseases (Cyril Ferrand, FAO REOA)*

The risk of locust is limited. No change has been noted since last month.

For further information, please refer to the attached brief on the food security and nutrition conditions in Central and Eastern Africa, 3rd September 2009.

2) Update on the Nutrition situation in the Horn of Africa (Peter Hailey, UNICEF)

According to recent estimates some 2.7 million children under the age of five are suffering of acute malnutrition in the HoA. Out of the 2.7 million some 518,000 are affected by severe acute malnutrition and are in need of immediate emergency assistance. It is also estimated that less than 40% of the severely malnourished children are receiving adequate treatment. The nutrition situation is not only related to the current difficult food security situation but caused by a complex combination of factors, such as precarious water, sanitation and hygienic conditions, poor access to basic health services, inadequate feeding practices etc.

For further details, please refer to the attached presentation “Nutrition in Horn of Africa August 2009”. The “Nutrition Sectoral Gap and Needs Analysis – Kenya August 2009” and the results of the nutrition surveys conducted from April to August 2008 in Ethiopia will be circulated by email by UNICEF to all FSNWG members.

1) Other

Towards the end of the month WFP will circulate official information on the magnitude of the needs in the region and possible shortfall other agencies are also facing shortfalls.

Francesco Del Re (FAO REOA) then closed the meeting. He thanked all participants for their coming and announced the date of the next FSNWG meeting on 1st October 2009 at 2.30pm at the FAO REOA office.

4) Action points

Action points	Who	When	Comments
Donor special briefing on FSN and WASH	FSNWG members	18 th September to be confirmed	Prepare situation analysis for the brief & highlight shortfalls and opportunities not to be missed. NGOs to be approached for participation.