

THE FAO COMPONENT OF THE CONSOLIDATED APPEALS

2012

NIGER





The Appeal for Niger was launched globally on the 14th December 2011
as part of the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP).
For a complete overview of FAO's component of the 2012 CAP, please go to
www.fao.org/emergencies.

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Information for this brochure mostly originates from OCHA's '2012 Humanitarian Appeals' documentation.

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FOREWORD

Every year, the plight and needs of many of the world's most vulnerable people are described in the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP). This year's CAP spans 18 countries¹ and outlines needs across key sectors.

The 2012 CAP clearly highlights that food insecurity continues to be compounded by protracted crisis situations, more frequent natural disasters, conflict, volatile food prices, harsh economic conditions and climate change.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) works with partners to reduce food insecurity through improved preparedness for and effective response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

Stepping up to the challenge

To rise to this challenge and improve effectiveness in a climate of reduced funding and increased need, FAO's emergency response focuses on protecting both lives and livelihoods. Rebuilding livelihoods and decreasing dependency on external aid ensures a quicker return to normalcy for affected people, restoring their self-sufficiency and sense of dignity.

Beyond immediate support to ensure food security in protracted or sudden-onset crisis situations, FAO implements programmes that build the resilience of households in the face of future shocks. Families that have been affected by crises, and often divested of their assets, are even more vulnerable to the potential impacts of future shocks – restoring livelihoods and strengthening resilience can mitigate the effects and reduce risk.

FAO's components of the CAP fit within broader planning and programming strategies at country and subregional levels, which look into longer-term measures to address the root causes of vulnerability and increase resilience through disaster risk management. These include FAO Plans of Action, which have been developed together with national counterparts in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, the Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Zimbabwe, among other countries.

Another way that FAO has stepped up to the ever increasing challenges of today's world is in our closer collaboration with international and local partners and counterparts. In 2011, the global Food Security Cluster was established to improve the coordination of food security responses in humanitarian crises, under the co-leadership of FAO and the World Food Programme. At country level, Food Security Clusters are increasingly reflected in CAP documents. FAO's work in development provides an important link with national authorities and community-based organizations that can often be built upon in times of crisis.

Adapting programming to best fit needs

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts, and achieving food security in emergencies requires a specific understanding and analysis of livelihoods.

FAO programming places people at the centre of its actions, identifying the most effective and efficient ways to assist those most vulnerable. Emergency response programmes are adapted to the needs of

¹ The present brochure only features the 16 countries that will be included in the global launch of the CAP on 14 December 2011. The CAP for Liberia and Sri Lanka will be launched at a later date.

women, men and their families, whether they are fishers, pastoralists, farmers or foresters. Diversifying livelihoods and intensifying agricultural production are some of FAO's key strategies. To be effective, analysis of household, community and national systems is needed. The individual CAP strategies reflect this livelihood analysis. In many contexts, addressing needs at the household level must be done hand in hand with strengthening community and social support systems.

In Somalia, in addition to providing immediate life-saving assistance, the strategic priorities for humanitarian assistance include stabilizing and preventing the deterioration of people's way of life through the protection and restoration of livelihood assets and through early recovery, resilience building, emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and social/productive networks.

This is a twin-track approach that combines immediate assistance to improve access to food with addressing the root causes of the problems and building longer-term coping capacity in the face of protracted crises and new shocks. FAO is supplying inputs like drought-tolerant seeds while improving pastoral techniques, water harvesting, irrigation and soil conservation. In situations of high unemployment or where access to food is constrained, cash and seed voucher schemes in exchange for labour are being established.

In the Horn of Africa, FAO has set up irrigation schemes so that some communities have been able to keep producing food despite the drought. FAO is also distributing seeds that can tolerate drought, and assisting farmers to produce more quality seeds and sell them to other farmers. These efforts are ensuring that more and more people can cope with drought in the future.

Building on local institutions

We have much to learn from our partners. In the past, the international community spoke of "capacity building", often as a "top-down" system of knowledge transfer, but experience has shown that most of the learning and best approaches to strengthen resilience are found at the local and national levels, within communities and institutions.

Building on and supporting local institutions can provide a sustainable basis for addressing the drivers of a crisis, for rebuilding livelihoods after a crisis and for strengthening resilience and coping mechanisms.

In South Sudan, FAO has and will continue in 2012 to work with the nascent government to establish a sound institutional framework for food security, which is resulting in increased levels of public investment in agriculture and food security.

Thinking about outcomes

Humanitarian response is life-saving, but it also aims to protect and restore the lives and livelihoods of people that have been hit by crisis. Dignity, food and nutrition security, self-sufficiency and resilience are cornerstones of what FAO aims to achieve in emergency response; there are also further positive outcomes across a variety of sectors that can be achieved through food- and agriculture-based approaches. For example, collaboration with the Department of Education in school gardening projects in the Philippines will enhance the nutritional value and variety of meals prepared in schools, and ensure that children attend school.

In Afghanistan, steps have already been taken to link food assistance, cash-based and agriculture support activities with a nutrition response to ensure that adequate household dietary intake and food consumption levels are met. Food security and agricultural interventions are closely aligned with programmes to increase water access for herders, whose livelihoods are impacted by natural disasters and conflict.

Short-term funding leads to short-term results

Humanitarian donors are at work to support the needs of the most vulnerable; however, despite generous short-term aid, which has been successful in addressing immediate needs, vulnerability persists in many countries facing humanitarian crises. If lasting solutions are not found, after each shock families are less able to cope, take longer to rebuild their lives and livelihoods, and remain dependent on external aid for longer periods of time.

In some parts of the Sudan, for example, vulnerability remains acute as underlying conditions are left unaddressed. As a result, large segments of internally displaced persons residing in camps have to various degrees become dependent on external aid. The comparative lack of parallel support for durable solutions within a humanitarian framework in the Sudan is one of the key contributors to persistent vulnerability in the country.

FAO's component of the 2012 CAP reflects how we in FAO are taking on new challenges. We appeal to our donors and partners to help us take on the challenge and work together to address not only the life-saving needs of vulnerable communities today, but to restore lives and livelihoods for tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurent Thomas', written over a horizontal line.

Laurent Thomas
Assistant Director-General
Technical Cooperation Department

2011 IN REVIEW

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) received USD 200 million in contributions for emergency programming in response to the 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and other humanitarian appeals launched in 2011. Although this represented a USD 50 million decline in appeal-related funding as compared with 2010, the coverage of requirements has remained steady at just over 50 percent.

The international community responded generously to agricultural needs in Afghanistan (94 percent met), Somalia (90 percent met) and Sri Lanka (77 percent met). These countries accounted for more than one-third of FAO's programming needs under the 2011 appeals.

2011 also included the continuation of appeals launched in 2010, such as the Pakistan Floods Relief and Early Recovery Response Plan, which remained active until July 2011. With almost USD 107 million in requirements and over USD 97 million in funding, it was FAO's largest appeal ever, and one of its most successful. The current appeal for Pakistan, launched in response to the devastating monsoon floods of 2011, will last until March 2012 and has received almost 56 percent of required funding. Over the past two years, FAO has implemented over USD 126 million in emergency agricultural programming in Pakistan.

The situation across the Horn of Africa deteriorated significantly in 2011. The region faced one of its driest years since 1950/51. Conditions were particularly dire in Somalia, where the food crisis escalated into famine in parts of the country. Although the Somalia 2011 CAP is well funded, funding for the rest of the region has been low. So far, out of total needs of more than USD 161 million for the whole region, almost USD 80 million, or 49 percent, has been contributed. FAO has a significant presence in the region, with active programming in every country affected by the crisis.

As of 30 November, total funding for FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Programme in 2011 amounted to over USD 333 million.

FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Programme

1 January to 30 November 2011

FUNDING BY COUNTRY/REGION	(USD)
Somalia	78 801 904
Sudan	45 786 639
Pakistan	18 537 881
Afghanistan	15 308 239
Kenya	13 486 406
Regional Africa	11 708 090
Sri Lanka	10 787 258
DR Congo	10 532 563
West Bank and Gaza Strip	10 292 629
Uganda	10 247 365
Indonesia	9 660 056
Ethiopia	6 402 099
Zambia	5 219 997
Niger	5 013 939
Chad	4 622 600
Côte d'Ivoire	4 520 742
Regional Latin America	3 815 808
Guatemala	3 681 897
Zimbabwe	3 639 010
Liberia	3 595 190

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS	(USD)
European Union	57 396 448
United States of America	56 291 682
Canada	36 241 276
OCHA/CERF	35 497 782
Sweden	16 380 547
Belgium	13 847 977
Australia	12 266 908
Japan	11 197 420
Spain	10 428 230
World Bank	8 770 000
UN Trust Fund - Sudan	7 020 257
United Kingdom	7 008 322
UN Trust Fund - DR Congo	5 966 903
Switzerland	4 557 886
France	4 431 766
UN Trust Fund - Somalia	4 401 244
Italy	3 800 941
Unilateral Trust Fund	2 938 565
United Kingdom	2 019 902
Netherlands	1 875 000

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Each year, up to 3.5 million people in the Niger rely on humanitarian assistance. Two-thirds of the population – about 10 million people – lives on less than USD 1 per day. The country's already limited natural resources are increasingly affected by climate change. Sociopolitical upheaval in parts of North and West Africa have led to the return of over 240 000 migrants to the Niger between February and September 2011. Most returned to vulnerable communities that relied on their remittances as a key coping mechanism during times of crisis, thus increasing the burden on these communities and decreasing their income.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

Climate change has left people in the Niger increasingly vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity. Four out of five people live in rural areas.

In the last decade, the country faced three major food crises as a result of drought and/or locust outbreaks: 2000/01, 2004/05 and 2009/10. The combined efforts of the Government and partners prevented a humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the most recent crisis in 2010. Despite a good 2010/11 agricultural season, many rural families are unable to access enough food, and over 2 million people still face chronic food insecurity.

Irregular and poorly distributed rains in July and August 2011 will likely affect crop (sorghum and millet) harvests in 2012. Crop and pasture production is further threatened by recent outbreaks of plant pests (rangeland grasshoppers). The country's cereal deficit stands at nearly 520 000 tonnes, which is almost 14 percent of national requirements. Low crop production and reliance on food imports are contributing to rising food prices, further eroding food security.

Poor fodder production – current levels meet only about 50 percent of animal needs – is threatening the livelihoods of herders, who are still recovering from the high levels of livestock mortality experienced during the 2009/10 season.

Food security in pastoral areas is determined by milk production, the sale of animal products and food prices in local markets. Increased cereal prices due to crop failures and low prices for livestock products will reduce household purchasing power, leaving herders and their families more food insecure in 2012.

Women have not benefited from economic and social progress to the same extent as men in the Niger and are less able to recover from crises, as they lack access to vital resources, such as land. Children were particularly affected by the 2009/10 crisis – half of children under age five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

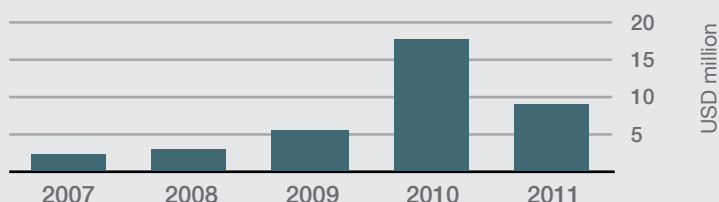
KEY FACTS

- Population: 15 511 953
- Human Development Index Rank: 186/187
- Workforce in agriculture: 83%
- Recent emergencies: cholera outbreak, floods.

Source: FAO, UNDP, World Bank

FAO EMERGENCY PROGRAMME

As of November 2011, based on project expenditures



FAO response

In 2012, FAO seeks to link relief and development efforts in the Niger through a combination of humanitarian assistance and efforts to build the resilience of farmers and herders.

FAO aims to strengthen agricultural livelihoods and transition to development by rehabilitating cereal banks, supporting agricultural marketing and establishing school and home vegetable gardens. To restore and strengthen crop production, FAO will provide farmers with improved seed varieties that are better adapted to climate variability, as well as fertilizers and inputs for plant protection.

With donor funding, FAO will assist herders by protecting high fodder production areas and providing animal health support. Training on the preparation of multinutrient blocks, distributing animal feed and strategic destocking (selling weaker animals to protect herds) will help prevent animal losses due to starvation. Pastoralist field schools will be set up to promote awareness and introduce new animal production techniques, enabling herders to better cope with crises in the future.



PROPOSALS - FAO Emergency and rehabilitation assistance

Total funding requested: USD 23 444 200

Emergency assistance to agricultural households affected by the 2011 food crisis

Objectives:	To restore and strengthen the production capacity and livelihoods of vulnerable households.
Activities:	Provide agricultural inputs for the dry season (e.g. vegetable seeds, potato seeds and fertilizer) and the rainy season (e.g. improved short-cycle varieties of millet, sorghum and cowpea seeds and fertilizer); develop and rehabilitate vegetable gardens; construct and rehabilitate cereal banks in partnership with WFP; develop income-generating activities through cash-for-work; support the restoration of destroyed lands; and ensure the protection of natural resources.
Beneficiaries:	1 761 000 people suffering from severe food insecurity (including 792 400 women and 352 200 children).
Gender marker:	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality.
Funds requested:	USD 13 371 500

Rapid assistance to vulnerable pastoralist households with livelihoods affected by the fodder deficit

Objectives:	To secure herders' livelihoods and strengthen their resilience.
Activities:	Distribute animal feed; develop income-generating activities through cash-for-work; promote livestock destocking; support vaccination programmes; train farmers on the production of multinutrient blocks; establish pastoralist field schools to promote awareness and introduce good farming practices; and provide nutrition education.
Beneficiaries:	333 000 vulnerable herders (including 171 600 women and 66 000 children).
Gender marker:	1 - The project is designed to contribute in some limited way to gender equality.
Funds requested:	USD 10 072 700

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Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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