

## Donor Round Table – WFP, FAO and UNICEF Joint Resilience Strategy 25 June 2013

### Program Updates

#### Dolow

In January 2013 a joint team from WFP, FAO and UNICEF along with local and international NGOs carried out community consultations in 25 communities in Dolow District. The consultations sought to engage with community members and produce community action plans (CAPs), which will guide programming activities under the resilience strategy. Pastoralist, agro-pastoralist, riverine, urban and IDP communities were visited during the consultations.

The most common shock identified through the CAPs was drought, which has eroded the household assets base (livestock) and facilitated the spread of livestock diseases. Children under five, women, elderly, orphans and disabled have been identified as the most vulnerable groups, with food security highlighted as the major problem within communities, along with poor hygiene and sanitation, lack of basic education and lack of clean water.

Based on outcomes from the consultations the three agencies developed a joint intervention matrix of suggested activities for Dolow district. Existing activities are being reoriented to align with local priorities and operational modalities are being designed to enhance complimentary between the three agencies' programs. Additional livelihoods activities are rolling out based on priorities identified in the CAPs to develop community assets (water reservoirs, irrigation canals, etc).

Based on lessons learned during the consultations, the CAP methodology/tool has been revised for rollout to other villages in Dolow and for use in other areas targeted under the resilience strategy.



#### Puntland

The three agencies, led by WFP, have just completed a second round of seasonal programming consultation in Bosaso – similar to those conducted in Burao, Somaliland in October 2012. The latest consultations invited community members from peri-urban IDP settlements in Bosaso town and pastoral, agro-pastoral and coastal livelihoods zones in Bosaso and Iskushuban Districts. The consultations reviewed seasonal implications of programming under the three pillars of the strategy and included sessions on shocks and trends, seasonal analysis and vulnerability profiling and targeting. NGO partners were also trained on community consultation and conducting community action plans combining classroom based training and field practice sessions in two IDP communities.

Findings indicate that agro-pastoralists, coastal fishing communities and IDPs consider the Haggaa as the most difficult season from a livelihood perspective, confirming our understanding of the seasonality of these areas. Strong winds, rough monsoon seas and high temperatures associated with the Haggaa restricts fishing in coastal communities and decreases labour opportunities for IDPs as port activity reduces and better off families migrate to cooler areas of Puntland. Pastoralists marked both the Haggaa and Jilaal as difficult seasons as access to pasture and water are reduced. All livelihoods groups noted an increase in household expenditures during the Haggaa as prices of imported foods increase. The availability of basic services including health and education were identified as major problems in rural areas of Iskushuban district while access to water and poor hygiene were identified as key issues in peri-urban Bosaso.

UNICEF and WFP have established a strong working relationship for programs in Puntland and are collaborating on creating links between Food for Assets and WASH programming with a focus on joint project selection for rehabilitation/construction of berkad and dams identified as priorities within the WASH sector. Furthermore, coordination on nutrition and education services continues.

#### Somaliland

A seasonal livelihood programming consultation was held in October for Burao and Odeweyne with the Somaliland Authorities, NGOs and community members. The consultation identified shocks and trends, mapped the seasonality of the different livelihoods zones, identified response options and a possible range of interventions and partnerships.

The Nairobi-based technical coordination team has handed over responsibility to the field teams of three agencies following a series of discussions in Hargeisa with Somaliland authorities and other stakeholders such as the JPLG and SomRep consortium members. The three teams have identified Lughaya and Berbera as priorities for expansion and have mapped interventions in all four targeted districts to help identify gaps and opportunities for complementarity. Community Action Planning will be rolled out to a limited number of villages in order to complement existing plans developed through the JPLG as well as the seasonal livelihood programming consultations.

WFP and FAO collaboration has begun on a joint project in the Durdur watershed which involves construction and rehabilitation of irrigation canals and feeder roads and training of farmers in improved techniques through farmer field schools. Although this has been planned outside of the resilience framework, it serves as a good example of the resilience approach. In addition to livelihoods interventions, similar complementarities are being strengthened in the nutrition and education sectors.

### Resilience Baseline/Impact Evaluation

A Joint Baseline Survey was conducted in April 2013. Over 1,000 households were interviewed in Dolow and Luq Districts. The data analysis (featuring the establishment of a “Resilience Index”) should be concluded in July-August. The data collected in Luq will serve as a control district and will allow for comparisons with Dolow.

The impact evaluation team is coordinating efforts to incorporate the findings of both qualitative and quantitative data collected in the targeted communities. In this context the technical working group is currently finalizing a village profile tool, which will allow the agencies to present the qualitative and quantitative results jointly. This will allow for the eventual measurement of impact at the household, village, livelihood zone and district levels.

### **Expansion to new Districts**

Recognizing that areas that fell into famine in 2011 need to be included within the framework of this strategy, the three agencies have discussed the possibility of expansion into some of the most vulnerable areas of South Central Somalia, understanding that predictability and complementarity of the different responses is critical to success of achieving the resilience impact. While access to many of these areas remains restricted, the agencies are looking into priorities for further expansion based on vulnerability and respective levels of access by each agency.

### **Governance**

The agencies are close to finalizing a Tripartite MoU, which details areas of collaboration between the three agencies, modalities for possible joint funding and governance mechanisms for the resilience strategy.

A technical coordination team comprised of key staff from UNICEF, WFP and FAO meets bi-weekly to discuss and make decisions related to ongoing Joint Resilience Strategy implementation issues.

The three agencies are developing “Operational Guidance Notes” for field staff and implementing partners which will identify areas for program linkages and will act as a field guide for implementation of programs under the joint strategy.

The Heads of Agencies are looking at how best to ensure a broader coordination of stakeholders adopting a resilience approach in Somalia.



### **Challenges**

The agencies have struggled to define a modified approach which seeks to ensure the core elements of the strategy are present even in the harder-to-access areas of south central Somalia. These could be selected resilience strengthening activities designed to be 'lighter' on technical input on the ground and using more innovative approaches for household survey and monitoring work.