



# Food Security Cluster Coordination Meeting Hiran Region

4-April-2023

# Agenda

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks
2. Review of action points from previous meeting
3. Food Security Response in Hiran Region – SOADO presentation
4. Partner updates (flood response plan, challenges, and gaps)
5. Flood alerts in Middle Shabelle – FAO SWALIM
6. AOB

Opening Remarks by  
Ministry of Humanitarian  
Affairs and Disaster  
Management

# Review of previous meeting's action points

- Agreed that SOADO to present at next Hiran RCM their projects challenges, corrective actions, lessons learned e.t.c.
- The FSC Coordinator to share report of the outbreak of the livestock reported in Beledweyne with the line ministry of livestock and range management for disease surveillance updates.

# Food Security Response in Hiran Region – SOADO presentation

**WELCOME**

**TO**

**SOADO PRESENTATION**

# Overview & Geographic Scope of Project

- ▶ Somali Organic Agriculture Development Organization (SOADO) with funding from Bread for The World-Protestant Development Service in a project titled 'Development of agro-pastoral and riverine farmers in Jalalaqsi District.

# PARTNER ORGANIZATION

Bread for the  
world-GAP  
farming  
systems

WHO/ARC in  
health  
intervention

UNICEF-  
Nutrition  
programs/pr  
imary care  
services

OCHA and FAO  
Capacity  
building  
programs on  
food security  
and emergency  
intervention



- ▶ This project is aimed (a) at improving crop production of the target communities using good agricultural practices as a principle of farmland restoration and remedy for the soil fertility problems. (b) The project introduced new crops along the Shabelle river for increasing household income in order to reduce the abject poverty prevailing in the Jalalaqsi district.

- ▶ Somali Organic Agriculture Development Organization (SOADO) has profound expertise in sustainable agriculture development and implemented several projects with UNFAO for improving food security in rural areas of south-central Somalia and it is operational since 2008 in Somalia. SOADO conducted training of farmers on conservation agricultural farming practices and resilient agriculture for the adaptation of climate change.

- ▶ The project target area is Jalalaqsi district, Hiram region. The target communities are agro-pastoral and riverine along the shabelle river, they grow sorghum and cowpea in rainfed area and maize and cowpea in irrigated area. The project intends to address farming problem of the agropastoral and riverine communities such farmland degradation, lack of nutrient cycle, poor vegetation cover and low organic matter in farmland, selected of new technique farming practices have been introduced and restoration of soil fertility.

- ▶ Crop diversification have been carried out in order to improve household food security and income, root and fruit crop were tested in the project target areas and successful crops are distributed to the farmers. The project encourages integration of animal with farming and retention of crop residue within the farmland for improving organic matter.

- ▶ Farmers in the Hiran region, particularly Jalalaqsi district is one of the most adversely affected by the recurrent droughts, flood, desert locusts and the climate change is exacerbating the current condition and floods destroys farmland along the riverbanks. The planned project intervention areas are denuded and farmland degradation is at a very alarming rate in the Jalalaqsi district and its satellite villages.

- ▶ The project target groups are agro-pastoral and riverine communities which are farmers on the river banks of Shebelle River and adjacent rain fed farmland in the district of Jalalqaqi. Direct beneficiaries of the project are 2500 households, of these 1000 agro-pastoral (300 female headed HHs and 700 male headed HHs) while 1500 households are riverine (450 female headed and 1050 male headed)

- ▶ The indirect beneficiaries of the project are non-participating farmers and pastoral communities living adjacent land of project target areas, who may get knowledge from TOT farmers and livestock rears who use the farmland area after harvest of crops and enhanced pastureland, the estimated indirect beneficiaries, are 5,000 households (1700 female). The project has been implemented in close collaboration and with full participation of local community members, local authority and profiled stakeholders and interest groups of envisaged crops.

# The SOADO Working Villages

## Cluster villages

- ▶ SOADO NGO works in 58 villages in the West and East of Jalalaqsi district. The 58 villages were split into four clusters, each with its own leader in disseminating information and challenges to SOADO extension personnel. As a result, all four clusters received TOT training and N-fixing trees. On the other hand, riverine clusters received OFSP vines as well as groundnut seeds separately. Furthermore, M&E personnel conduct an assessment of all clusters' performance based on the activities they have undertaken



# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 2022-MARCH 2023

## SOADO PROJECT ACTIVITIES

SOADO carries out two major activities, one of which has sub-activities.

### **A) Improve farm production**

- ❖ Establish TOT training
- ❖ Farmers' follow up
- ❖ Compost making+
- ❖ Setup of Extension Services
- ❖ Organize nurseries

### **B) Improve household income through root and fruit crops**

- ❖ Trial of Groundnut crop
- ❖ Selection of Cassava varieties
- ❖ Trial of Pineapple
- ❖ Scale up OFSP production
- ❖ Introduce fodder crops (Brachiaria grass and Napier grass)
- ❖ Jalalaqsi River Embankment
- ❖ Establishment of Tissue Culture Laboratory

# PHOTOS OF FARMERS' TRAINING





# PHOTOS OF EXTENSION SERVICE











# PHOTOS OF N-FIXING TREE SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION









## PHOTOS OF COMPOST ANIMAL MANURE PREPARATION







# OFSP VINES DISTRIBUTION















# PHOTOS OF FARMERS' FOLLOW UP



# TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY





# ACHIEVEMENTS

- ▶ 99 agropastoral (43 females) and 156 riverine (53 females) households reduced food gap from five months to two month
- ▶
- ▶ 99 agropastoral (43 females) and 156 riverine (53 females) households reduced food gap from five months to two month. This means that these households have been able to reduce the time period during which they lack adequate food resources from five months to two months, indicating an improvement in their food security situation.
- ▶
- ▶ It suggests that the intervention or project that was implemented during this period to reduce the food gap has been successful, and can have a positive impact on the health, well-being of the households, food self-sufficiency and lead to improved economic and social outcomes in the long term.

# CONT....

- ▶ 71 Agro pastorals (28 females) and 118 riverine (42 females) have abled to apply learned knowledge of agro-ecological farming( composting, crop diversification, minimal tillage).
- ▶ It is heartening to learn that a group of 71 Agro-pastorals, including 28 females, and 118 Riverine farmers, including 42 females, have abled to apply their learned knowledge of GAP farming techniques.
- ▶ 471 N-Fixing seedlings distributed to 157 agropastoral and 855 N-fixing seedling to 263 riverine households , so these households have applied nitrogen fixing in their fields and restored nitrogen reserve in the farm ecosystem.
- ▶ Please include the results which is brought after the distribution of the N-fixing seedlings to the target farm households.

# LESSONS LEARNT

- ▶ SOADO NGO intensified promotion of good agricultural practices to minimize soil erosion and loss of soil fertility such as compost, organic pesticides, intercropping, mixed farming among others
- ▶ SOADO NGO introduced GAP farming practices and farmers well adopted zai pit that induced increase of yield.
- ▶ Introduction of Magoya ripper has reduced soil disc plough for soil erosion & women's labor demand and therefore more gender mainstreaming needs to be done into the project.
- ▶ SOADO introduced resistant and valuable root crops like OFSP potato and cassava that changed the living standard of local community and good for malnutrition among the children and lactating women.
- ▶ Apart from farmers' field days, extension materials need to be provided. These materials should be translated in local language to ensure reference. They can then be used for future reference.

# CONT...

- ▶ Despite the trainings received and the implementation of some of the CA measures, farmers need more training on cover crop management and long-term soil fertility improvement
- ▶ Need to invest in long term strategies to improve the soil e.g. agroforestry
- ▶ Farmers' lack of knowledge on how to control and manage the weeds and to address this, there is needed to have more crop residues on farms and cover crops to keep the weeds at bay.
- ▶ CA needs not to wait for the Deyr or Gu, rains instead of that Irrigation can be done initially as farmers wait for the onset of rains.
- ▶ Conservation agriculture can be practiced by farmers without any input or credit. To ensure long term production and sustainability, farmers should be supported by provision of input and credit facilities. They could then access more rippers, other inputs and hence expand area under cultivation of crops

# CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

- ▶ Impact of flash floods
- ▶ Recurrent droughts
- ▶ Unpredictable of rain pattern
- ▶ Sometimes desert locust infestation
- ▶ Impact of (*Quelea quelea*) bird on cereal crops.
- ▶ Dry up of Shabelle River

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENSION**

Partner updates  
(flood response plan,  
challenges, and gaps)

# Flood alerts in Hiran Region

## – FAO SWALIM





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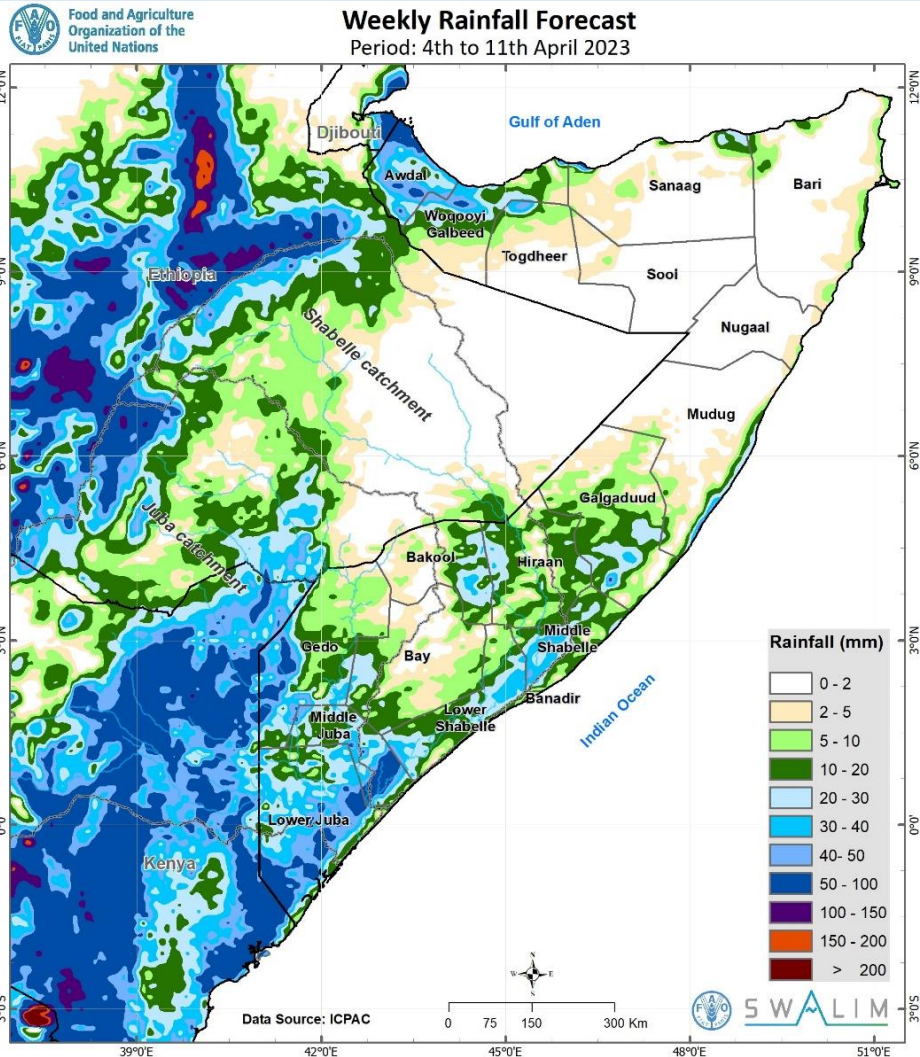
# Rainfall and Flood Update in Somalia

*04 APRIL 2023*

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**Omar Sabrie Olad– FAO SWALIM**

## Past Weather and Next Week Forecast



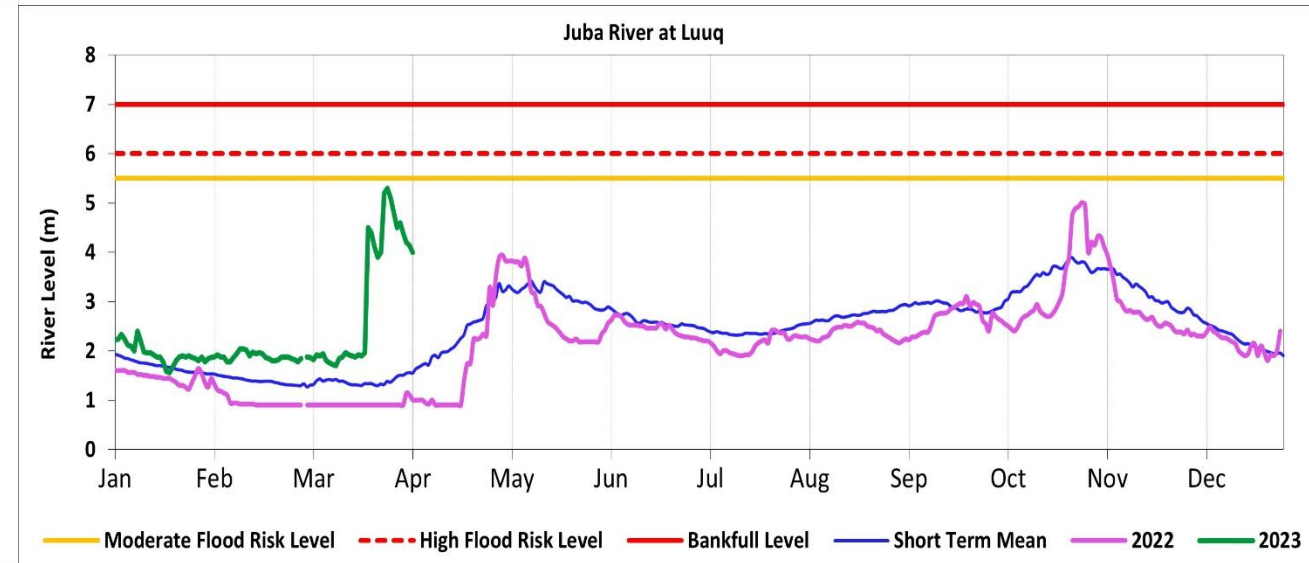
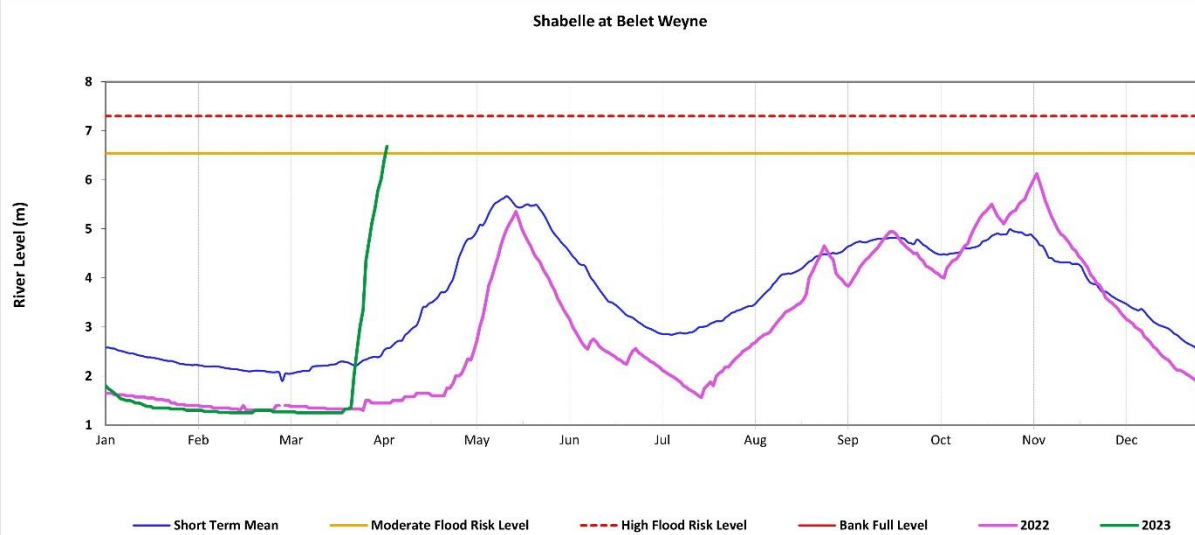
### Last Week Weather:

- Several parts of the country received rains during the second half of March marking an early start of the *Gu* (April-May-June) long rain season in Somalia

### Forecast:

- **Moderate rainfall** expected over isolated areas in the north-western and southern parts of the country
- **Light rainfall** predicted over parts of southern, central and northern Somalia
- **Dry conditions** expected in central parts of the country.

## Shabelle & Juba River Levels



- Currently river level along Jubba and Shabelle are above average for this period of the year with moderate risk of flooding along the Shebelle river.
- Levels along the Shebelle river are expected to rise in the coming days, given the ongoing rains within Ethiopian highlands. Along the Juba, the levels are dropping although they remain above the long term average for this period



## Impacts of Past and Forecast Weather

- Even though light to moderate rains are expected over Somalia, the heavy rains predicted (**forecast Map 1**) over Ethiopian highlands (more than 200 mm) will sustain the rising river levels in both Juba and Shabelle
- The rising river levels can therefore poses a high risk of flooding in the towns and its surrounding
- The population living at the low lying areas of Beletweyne and downstream reaches should take precaution
- The forecast light to moderate rains moderate temperatures throughout the country are likely to lead to partial recharge of surface water sources and vegetation regeneration which is important for human and livestock survival.
- Communities are encouraged to take advantage of the rains and harvest water
- SWALIM and partners are following the developments keenly, and will keep you updated





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# Mahadsanid! Thank You



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## Next Meetings

- **Hiran RCM: 2nd May 2023 (2:00PM-3:30PM)**
- **Middle Shabelle RCM: 5th April 2023 (10:00AM-11:30AM)**
- **Hirshabelle SCM: 11th April 2023 (10:00AM-11:30AM)**

THANK YOU

