

**FSC PARTNERS MEETING MINUTES
30th November 2020
Mode: Virtual - Zoom**

Meeting Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks (MoAI, MoLFR and MoHADM)
 2. Locust Updates- MoA and FAO
 3. Locust Updates-RDLA
 4. SWALIM Flood Updates
 5. FSC response Update
 6. FSNAU assessment updates
 7. Ground Truth Solution Survey (GTS) Updates
 8. Agriculture Technical Working Group Updates
 9. Livestock Working Group
 10. AOB
-

1. Opening Remarks

Director General Omar (Ministry of Livestock Forestry and Rangelands), Mr Mahmoud (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation) and Mr Abubakar Ahmed Mohamed (Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management) welcomed the participants attending the meeting. They emphasised the need for unified action in addressing identified food security needs.

2. Locust Update

- **Regional Outlook and breeding**
Desert Locust situation in the region remains alarming with both hoppers and adults being reported in Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Yemen, Kenya and Somalia
- Winter breeding season is going on (Oct-Dec) and conducive condition still exists in many places to allow population to continue multiplying. Cyclone Gati will increase the chance for multiplication in the areas affected. Control efforts remain a priority in all countries.
- **Horn of Africa Situation:** The situation in Somalia remains dangerous with several factors influencing the projections. Though control operations are ongoing, Desert Locust swarm population from Ethiopia have moved to the south. There is also massive breeding in the Somali region of Ethiopia. There is difficulty to access areas with high desert locust population in Somalia.
- **Access for control teams:** In *Puntland* control teams (ground and aerial) have encountered resistance from the communities while trying to control large hopper bands. In Galmudug: Cell bur and Xaradhere have high number of hopper bands but are not accessible to survey and control teams.
- **Effect of Cyclone Gati:** The cyclone has the potential of moving any remaining swarms further south into Puntland, Galmudug and Somali region in Ethiopia. Breeding areas in

Somaliland and Puntland have remained free of breeding population due to the dry conditions, the cyclone may encourage breeding to start in some of these areas.

- **Impact on crops and pasture:** Desert Locust affected and continues to affect crops and pasture in Galmudug and Puntland and disrupting livelihoods
- **Update on control interventions:** 110,000 ha have been treated using both aerial as well as ground control in Puntland, Galmudug as well as Somaliland. Ground control has recently commenced in South Central targeting vulnerable farming communities who are being supported with PPE, sprayers as well as chemicals to fight Desert locust.

Update from Regional Desert Locust Alliance

Update on RDLA activities:

- **Monthly Mapping Exercise** is continuing and in coordination with FAO a map is being developed & presented at the Monthly Desert Locust Briefing organized by OCHA ROSEA
- Latest **advocacy statement** was released on 30 October 2020
- A **technical guidance** note focused on food security and livelihood response will be released in the next couple of weeks
- Jointly with FAO, the RDLA will be working on the revision of their **impact assessment survey tool** and share across members

Key message:

- Current **increase presence of swarms** poses a threat until mid-next year
- Populations in the region have been **facing multiple threat** over the course of the year (flooding, COVID-19 pandemics, locust infestation recurrent droughts over the course of the decade), making vulnerable communities **struggle to recover and avoid further deterioration of their food security**
- Short rains in October to December are also forecasted to be below average further impacting food security
- **Immediate anticipatory action is required** to protect livelihoods and food security of millions of vulnerable individuals as well as strengthening resilience
- **Funding needs to remain flexible** to account for the changing context
- Close **collaboration and coordination** with local communities, national authorities, FAO and other surveillance and control actors as well as partners responding on the ground is required

3. SWALIM Flood Updates

- **Rainfall Update: North western regions (October and September):** Deyr rains started early, since the first week of September, however from mid-October, there has been reduction in many parties.
- **Rainfall Update: North Eastern regions (Oct-Sep);** Good rains have been recorded in most areas although not well distributed.
- **Rainfall Update: South Central regions (Oct-Sep);** It rained in almost all the areas and rain was well spread though was not evenly distributed.
- **Jubba River Levels:** River levels along Jubba have been decreasing over the last 2 weeks. The levels along the entire region are currently above the normal for this time of the

year. With the current rainfall forecast and river levels, no risk of flooding in the coming week.

- **Shabelle River Levels:** There has gradual decrease in river levels along Shabelle at the reaches over the last 2 weeks. Current river level at Beletweyne is within normal for this period. In the middle and lower reaches, the levels remain high, fluctuating within the high risk level. With the rainfall forecast for the coming week, pointing towards high rainfall within Somalia and Ethiopian highlands, there is no risk of flooding along the Shabelle.
- **Rainfall Forecast: 30 Nov-13 Dec:** No rains expected in the next 7 days. Second week to experience high to moderate rains in the southern areas. There remains a great concern in Somaliland and a few other places in the country due to insufficient rains during the Deyr season. With no more rains expected until the next rainy season in April 2021, the condition could deteriorate further toward drought situation. This is confirmed by the current climate models confirming a higher certainty of La Nina conditions persisting through March 2021. SWALIM and other technical partners are on the lookout of such developments.

4. FSC Response Update (August to October) / Actuals against the target)

- *Objective 1: Improved Access to Food through Conditional and Unconditional Transfers (Cash, Vouchers & In kind)*

The target for this Objective is 2,103,495.

- In August 1,652,304 (54%) of the target beneficiaries were reached; and,
- In September 1,531,074 (73%) of the target beneficiaries were reached.
- In October 1,712,529 (81%) of the target beneficiaries were reached.
- Under Objective 1, There were 15 districts where the response in October was less than 15% of the target, Reasons given by partners for the low coverage was mainly Access challenge.
- *Objective 2: Livelihood Seasonal Inputs and Livestock Asset Protection*

The target under this objective is 821,315.

- Starting August, a total of 237,388 (or 29%) of the target beneficiaries were reached cumulatively starting August.

Notably, the number reached in objective 2 is lower: hence, there is need for partners to scaleup their responses.

5. FSNAU Assessment Updates

- FSNAU provided an update with regards to the Post Deyr assessment. The process started on 20th Oct and will be finalized around 15th Jan 2021. As usual, partners are requested to participate in the process for greater success and ownership.
- *October-December Season Rainfall Outlook:* Greater likelihood of below normal to normal Deyr season rainfall in most parts of Somalia and average to below average rainfall northeast region. Rainfall forecast for next 2 weeks

- Cumulatively, rainfall from September to November was characterized by erratic distribution and amounts were below average in Central and Southern parts of Somalia. Current forecast indicates that little or no rainfall over the next two weeks. This combination of poor rainfall performance and little to no rainfall forecast in the next two weeks is likely to have a significant adverse impact on Deyr season crop production in agropastoral areas as well as in pastoral livelihoods in Central and Southern Somalia

6. Ground Truth Solutions Survey

The survey focused on the perceptions of aid recipients in Somalia. 1,572 respondents have been interviewed between 7th -22nd September 2020 in 17 regions of Somalia with 2 randomly selected districts. There were quotas for IDP and host community. There was face-face data collection by research Care Africa. Respondents were 34% male and 66% female.

- Most are experiencing a decrease in CVA transfers, contributing to difficulty to meet basic needs
- Though unrestricted cash is preferred, a significant minority still prefer in-kind and voucher assistance, despite some needing to sell in-kind aid to meet their needs in cash
- Recipients do not feel informed of available aid, do not feel their opinions are taken into account, which correlates positively with their ability to meet needs

Here is the link to the report: https://groundtruthsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/GTS_Somalia_Survey_Dec_2020.pdf

7. Livestock Working Group updates

- TORs for Working Group have been developed
- Livestock intervention matrix developed. The matrix will be shared with partners to get information on Who is doing what where and when
- Next Livestock Working Group meeting to be held on 10th December 2020.
- The Ministry of Livestock Forestry and Rangelands team requested to be included in the Food Security Cluster mailing list.

8. Agriculture Technical Working Group Updates.

- The working group had a meeting on 26th November 2020, where the workplan of the group was presented. After inputs and comments, the workplan was endorsed by the technical working group. It had seven main priorities
- The workplan also to be shared with the Food Security Cluster partners for their inputs.
- Those who are not receiving emails form Agriculture Technical Working Group, they were advised to notify Elizabeth so as to be included in the mailing list.

9. AOB:

There being no AOB, the meeting ended at 12:15PM