# Plan of Action for the Horn of Africa:

## *Support Strategy for Ending Drought Emergencies*

*Proposed 2012 Roadmap*

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**Background:**

The Regional UNDG Meeting on the Horn of Africa Drought Crisis on 13-14 December 2011 brought together the RC/HCs of affected countries, Regional Directors of UN Agencies and regional representatives of Oxfam and the African Development Bank to discuss the progress made and the next steps in the operationalisation of the Horn of Africa Plan of Action. Objectives for the meeting included (i) taking stock of country and regional initiatives (ii) identifying strategic opportunities for effectively responding to symptoms and root causes of the crisis and (iii) discuss entry points for partnerships to strengthen aligned and holistic responses.

Following that meeting, the recommendations and action points below represent a roadmap for the continued progress towards implementation of the Plan of Action at both country and regional level, and provides an overview of key activities for all stakeholders and third parties interested in learning more about the plan.

**Key Recommendations & Next Steps:**

Focus on supporting national implementation

- The Horn of Africa Plan of Action now has the subtitle "Support Strategy to Ending Drought Emergencies" to underline the vision and principles of the plan which focus on developing support strategies by humanitarian and development partners for existing and/or emerging country-specific plans. It recognized the critical role of Country UN Resident Coordinators/ Humanitarian Coordinators in leading efforts to operationalise the Support Strategy at the national level.
- A set of guidelines will be sent to Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators in Horn countries[1] to guide them on the operationalisation of the Support Strategy at the country level, including the establishment of a Country Focal Point Group with representatives from Plan of Action lead agencies and any other interested partners to develop a national support strategy by 30th April 2012 and lead in the operationalisation of the plan at country level.

The role of IGAD

- In accordance with the conclusions of the Nairobi Summit in September 2011, the meeting strongly emphasised the mandate of IGAD at the regional level to coordinate efforts to end drought emergencies in the Horn and to ensure strong linkages between the Plan of Action and activities undertaken by national governments and partners in the region.

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[1] *Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda*

Ensuring strong participation across a broad set of stakeholders

- The Horn of Africa Plan of Action Lead Agencies will encourage broader participation and enhanced dialogue with other humanitarian and development partners through the Plan, including other International NGOs, UN agencies, regional bodies and development banks. A broad consultative group shall be formed under the leadership of IGAD with support from the Regional Focal Point Group. This group shall contribute to strengthening the coherence and alignment with other initiatives, plans and strategies.
- The Group will also seek to build on existing and forge new partnerships (e.g. with the private sector) to ensure effective, coherent and comprehensive interventions.

New initiatives:

Under the aegis of the Horn of Africa Plan of Action, a number of initiatives will be launched to promote common learning and propose new approaches that can contribute to ending drought emergencies in the region.

(1) A white paper on resource mobilization to stimulate debate among national stakeholders and development partners on ways to promote early recovery strategies and longer term investments in prevention, risk reduction and resilience.
(2) A white paper on strategic partnerships to support synergetic action towards ending drought emergencies in the region.
(3) A proposal for a joint regional project on Early Warning – Early Action. This project proposal would support the IGAD secretariat in implementing a regional Early Warning Mechanism as well as provide technical support and capacity to the IGAD Secretariat, building upon initiatives already in place in the region.

**Follow-up:**

The Regional Focal Points continue to carry out a steering group function, including inter alia, (i) providing technical guidance on supporting the prioritization and implementation of country-led plans at the national level, (ii) leading on regional activities, (iii) seeking greater alignment and coherence with other initiatives and (iv) developing proposals on how advocacy and research agenda can be taken forward within the framework of the Support Strategy. The Regional Focal Points that have been nominated to lead on the implementation of the Plan of Action are the following and can be contacted in case you request additional information:

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