



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Somalia, Somali Republic (SO)

Food Security Cluster Augmentation in Response to the continued Humanitarian Situation in Somalia

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200440
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	N/A
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	September 23, 2012
Planned Start Date	September 01, 2012
Actual Start Date	September 01, 2012
Project End Date	June 30, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,833,066
Direct Support Costs	5,039,054
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	481,048
Total	7,353,169

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	0
Actual Commodities 2015	0
Total Approved Commodities	N/A

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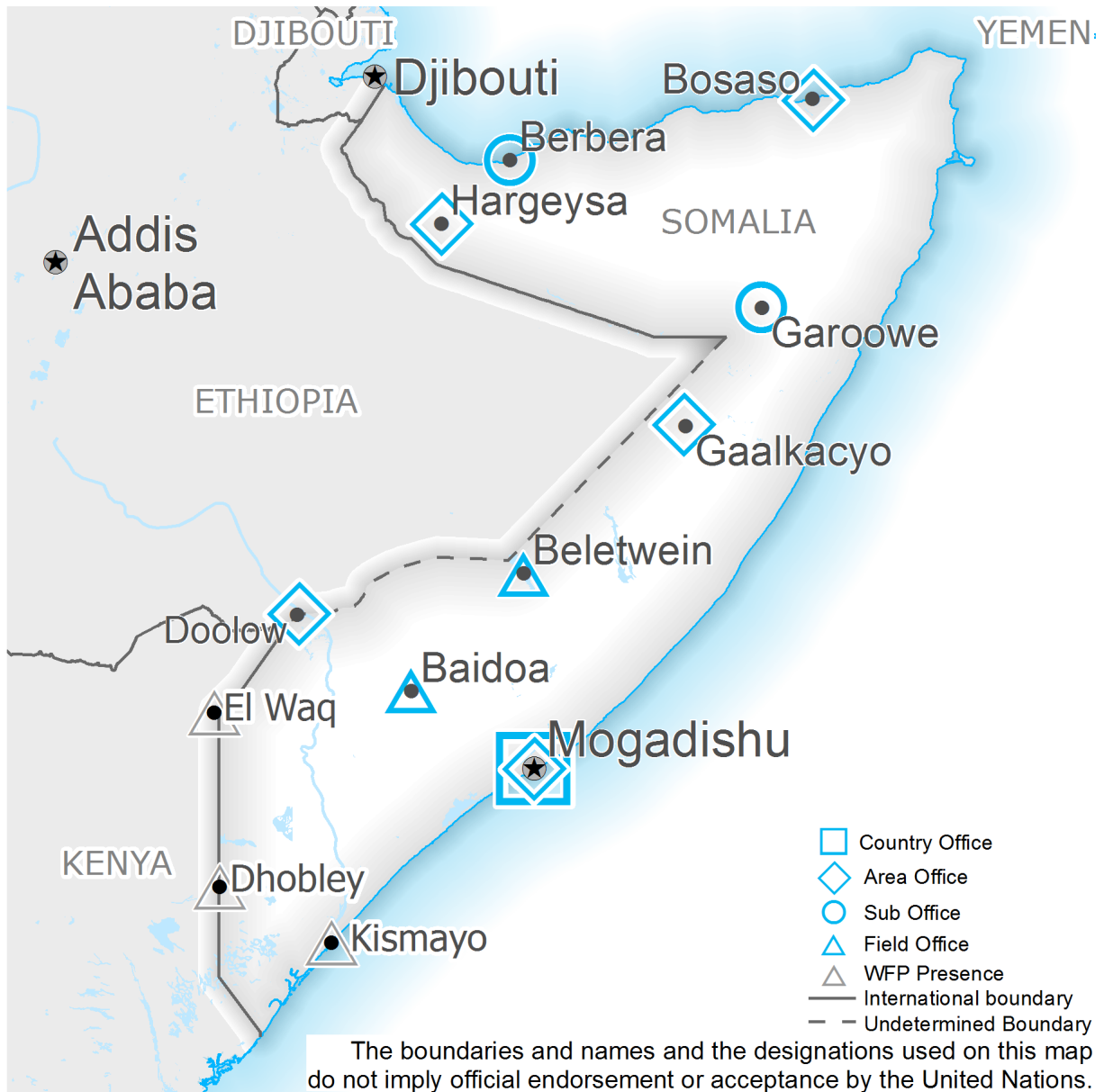
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

Somalia, with a population of 12.3 million (UNFPA, 2014) is among the poorest and most food insecure countries in the world. Over 60 percent of the households in urban areas and 95 percent of rural households suffer from multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2014). An estimated 1.1 million Somalis are internally displaced, and constitute 62 percent of food-insecure people in the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) "crisis" and "emergency" phases.

Over the past two and a half decades, Somalia has faced insecurity, conflict and recurrent food and nutrition crises. Fragile governance systems, profound gender and social inequities and scarce resources have compounded the impact of the long-running crisis in the country. As a result, the country has been unable to consistently invest in agriculture, social safety nets and basic services such as health and education. Mortality rates of 137/1,000 live births among children under the age of 5, and maternal mortality rates of 732/100,000 live births, are among the highest rates in the world (UNICEF, 2012). School enrolment and literacy rates are among the lowest globally, especially for girls. Only 42 percent of children aged 6 -12 years attend primary school. Of these, only 36 percent

are girls (Somalia Federal Government & UNICEF, 2013). Against this background, the country was unable to meet all of its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets and was ranked 51 out of 52 countries in Africa in the World Bank's MDG database. Lack of accurate and reliable data also undermined the assessment of Somalia's progress against the MDGs.

The results of the 2008 - 2014 WFP Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) estimated that over 3 million Somalis were either acutely food insecure or highly vulnerable. An additional 1.9 million people were at risk of becoming moderately or acutely food insecure in the event of a shock. In the first half of 2015, there was a slight improvement in the overall food security situation in Somalia, following relatively good *Deyr* (short) 2014 rains. However, the food security situation deteriorated halfway through the year due to a combination of factors, including the early end of the 2015 *Gu* (long) rains that led to below average cereal production, and poor rainfall in some northern pastoral and agropastoral areas. Insecurity, trade disruptions and continued population displacement due to insurgent activities in parts of south-central Somalia; the country's grain basket - also had a negative impact on the overall food and nutrition situation in the country.

Somalia remains one of the most challenging operating environments in the world for humanitarian agencies. The conflict and insecurity often limits access to beneficiaries in many areas and puts the safety of field staff at risk. Other contextual risks include clan dynamism, fluid and changing geographic and political boundaries, and the limited capacity and presence of cooperating partners, all of which could result in diversion and misappropriation of food. In 2013, the government and the international community endorsed the New Deal for Somalia to rebuild the country, stabilize its institutions and develop the public sector. Achievements to date have been mixed, and many political, social and economic challenges remain.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP's assistance in Somalia focused on protecting the food security of vulnerable households and saving lives and protecting livelihoods in emergencies and during lean seasons. WFP recognizes that gender inequality directly affects the ability of nations to become free from hunger and food insecurity, and therefore integrated gender-sensitive programming throughout its activities. In 2015, WFP targeted 1.73 million vulnerable Somalis in food insecure areas through nutrition, livelihood, relief and social safety net programmes under the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200443. December 2015 marked the end of the PRRO whose primary objectives included enhancing the resilience of communities through food assistance-for-assets (FFA) interventions and strengthened partnerships; rebuilding household food and nutrition security with preventive and therapeutic nutrition interventions and school meals; and protecting livelihoods during shocks and seasonal vulnerability through blanket supplementary feeding and targeted relief assistance. The PRRO also sought to build and enhance operational capacities of counterpart ministries in planning, oversight and implementation of health, nutrition and education activities, in order to facilitate eventual handover.

In 2015, WFP implemented two special operations in support of the PRRO and the provision of humanitarian assistance in Somalia. Special operation 200507, "Humanitarian Air Service in Support of Relief Operations in Somalia and Kenya", facilitated the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and the movement of humanitarian workers in Somalia, including medical and security evacuations. Special operation 200440, "Food Security Cluster Augmentation in Response to the continued Humanitarian Situation in Somalia" supported coordination and strategic response guidance for food security cluster (FSC) members and key strategic stakeholders in Somalia.

Throughout the duration of the PRRO, WFP progressively expanded the use of innovative approaches including biometric registration of beneficiaries, electronic management of all transfers (in-kind, cash and vouchers), and the use of mobile phone technology for data collection and communication with beneficiaries. Following the arrival of Yemeni refugees and Somali returnees in April 2015, WFP provided relief assistance through cooked meals, e-transfers and nutrition support. In response to other emergencies throughout the year (floods and tropical cyclones), WFP deployed logistical assets including boats and helicopters to reach people in locations where road access was compromised.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	298,100	304,582	602,682
Children (5-18 years)	186,556	228,044	414,600
Adults (18 years plus)	360,171	417,532	777,703
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	844,827	950,158	1,794,985

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	47,202	5,465	8,293	15,910	53	76,924
Total Food Distributed in 2015	47,202	5,465	8,293	15,910	53	76,924

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Special operation (SO) 200440 was launched in September 2012 to enable the food security cluster (FSC), co-led by WFP and FAO, to assume humanitarian leadership around coordination and information management of emergency food security responses. The special operation also enables the FSC to support recovery through the provision of strategic guidance on livelihood planning that strengthens resilience and addresses the underlying causes of the recurrent crises in Somalia. The operation supports WFP's activities in Somalia and is aligned with WFP's Strategic Objective 1.

SO 200440 was originally set to end in December 2015 but was extended through a budget revision and will now end in June 2016. The six-month extension will make use of funds carried forward from 2015 and allow for sufficient time for FAO and WFP to mainstream FSC coordination costs into their respective regular operational costs. The FSC directly engages (through meetings, reporting and trainings) with 266 organizations but coordinates with nearly 200 others bringing its overall engagement to over 460 organizations. As such, the FSC categorizes organizations as members, partners and observers. Since its inception, the FSC has worked to strengthen the capacity of its members and partners, carry out advocacy and response reporting and support the identification of food security response gaps in Somalia. The FSC also facilitates and coordinates local level contingency planning.

Results

Outputs

In 2015, the activities of the FSC were guided by six strategic priorities. These included coordination of member responses and strategic response guidance; quality reporting; monitoring and identification of gaps; emergency preparedness and contingency planning; advocacy and resource mobilization; and strengthening the capacity of humanitarian actors.

As part of enhancing coordination, the FSC set up both national and sub-national regional clusters to optimise collaboration and to reach all stakeholders. In 2015, the FSC established 13 sub-national regional clusters, with 266 agencies that participate in the national cluster system, based on accessibility in the areas allowing partners to carry out activities and attend meetings. Regular monthly meetings were held with an average attendance of 18 persons per meeting, with the exception of the South Mudug regional cluster that could not convene meetings because of insecurity. A total of 22 FSC agencies participated in decision-making and took leadership roles (strategic advisory group, cluster review committee and vice coordinators). In order to strengthen regional level coordination, the FSC organised a workshop for the vice coordinators and focal points in November 2015 to ensure adequate engagement and effectiveness of field-level meetings. The FSC also developed a vice coordinators and focal points orientation manual to provide guidance to newly elected officials.

Reporting, monitoring and identification of gaps, and resource mobilization for the overall humanitarian response in Somalia were central to the work of the FSC in 2015. To this end, the FSC provided 168 response updates (including response gaps) to cluster members, donors, the humanitarian community and the general public. The number of response updates was 30 percent higher than the previous year, even though the 2015 target was not reached as one of the regional hubs did not conduct regular coordination meetings. In addition, the FSC provided a platform for the harmonization of partners' efforts towards the preparation of the 2015 Strategic Response Plan. Similarly, the FSC worked with its members to finalise the food security response plan which is now part of the 2016 - 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan.

The FSC supported its members in developing local level operational contingency plans by identifying in advance what interventions would be required in different areas which are prone to flooding, drought and localised conflict. Following the early warning indications of El Niño, the FSC worked with partners to put in place a contingency plan from mid-July 2015. In collaboration with the FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management project (SWALIM), the cluster monitored and disseminated information on El Niño to its membership. The FSC also worked with its partners to map ongoing activities and ensure a coordinated response to the displacement caused by localised flooding in Middle and Lower Shabelle, Hiran and Lower Juba, and to the needs of those affected by drought conditions in parts of Somaliland.

In an effort to strengthen the capacity of its members, the FSC facilitated 28 training workshops for members in Nairobi and Somalia, benefiting 461 persons. Over 90 percent of these were staff from local NGOs, while the rest were from United Nations agencies and international NGOs. The number of persons trained is lower than planned mainly because of insecurity, which meant that some staff could not attend and some workshops had to be cancelled. Local authorities and relevant ministries, including five staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of National Planning and Development, also benefited from the training. The FSC also started an initiative to develop and adapt tools and methods for assessing food security in urban areas of Somalia. In the process of refining and field-testing the tools, the FSC worked closely with government representatives from the Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Planning and the Directorate of Statistics, along with several local NGOs and United Nations partners.

The FSC completed two of the planned guidelines for the year. The draft tools for assessing food security in urban areas and the accountability to affected populations training module was completed and the training rolled out. Further field testing of the urban assessment tools is however required.

In 2015, the FSC produced and shared with partners two out of the three technical reports planned for the year. During this period, a baseline survey was conducted to identify gaps in AAP mainstreaming. A report was produced and findings shared with FSC partners. In addition, the FSC produced and shared a report on the development of tools and methods for assessing food security in the urban areas in Somalia. The FSC had planned to produce a report on emergency preparedness and contingency planning. However, as the FSC was involved in the development of the El Niño contingency plan under the inter-cluster platform, a parallel initiative in contingency planning was deemed unnecessary.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Cluster)				
Number of UN agency and NGO staff trained	individual	605	461	76.2
Number of bulletins, maps and other information products compiled and shared	item	180	168	93.3
Number of guidance documents developed and circulated to the cluster	item	2	2	100.0
Number of partner organizations participating in the cluster system nationally	agency/organization	250	266	106.4
Number of regional cluster coordination cells created	unit	13	13	100.0
Number of technical reports shared with cluster partners	report	3	2	66.7
Number of training sessions / workshops organized	training session	32	28	87.5

Outcomes

The FSC kept its members updated on food security needs, gaps and responses through the use of emails, the FSC Somalia website, regular national and regional coordination meetings and bilateral discussions. This contributed to effective contingency planning, especially for the El Niño preparedness and response.

The capacity development component of the FSC's strategy helped to improve the quality of partner proposals submitted to the cluster for both the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) as well as the Humanitarian Response Plan. The annual vice coordinator and focal point training enhanced the capacity of the vice coordinators (who are all elected volunteers) to conduct effective meetings and coordinate with local authorities and other partners. Various other tools developed by the cluster in previous years such as the technical guidelines on the use of cash and vouchers, cost-efficiency analysis tools and information management tools continue to be used by partners for reference in programme planning and implementation.

In 2015, the FSC participated in the El Niño preparedness and response coordination forum which was a high level platform that included other clusters as well as the Government. This forum provided an opportunity for the FSC to highlight the existing capacity as well as gaps and challenges around food security responses in the country. This information was used extensively by partners in pre-positioning and mapping stocks across sectors as part of the preparedness plan. The Ministry of Agriculture collaborated with some FSC partners in closing river breakages to mitigate the potential negative impacts of flooding, while the FSC used the information on early warning and partners' preparedness plans to engage with the Department of Disaster Management.

Overall, the FSC provided a platform for the harmonization of food security responses and facilitated the successful preparation and finalisation of the 2016 Strategic Response Plan, the 2015 mid-year monitoring report as well as the allocation of pooled funding such as the CHF and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The FSC was allocated USD 6.5 million under the 2015 CHF, and worked with partners, through the strategic advisory group and the cluster review committee, to prioritize activities within the cluster.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

The monthly regional cluster coordination meetings were chaired by NGOs with the support of WFP and FAO staff in the various regions. The NGOs were elected by other food security partners to these voluntary positions. Local authorities participated in the majority of the regional coordination meetings.

In 2015, the FSC continued to prioritise capacity development of its membership. In the area of food security assessment capacity development, the FSC successfully conducted two initiatives. The first initiative included a partnership with REACH. REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations, ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives, and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT), with the purpose of facilitating the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. A series of response planning workshops that were implemented jointly with REACH were finalised with the participation of local actors, including the local authorities in Gedo. Secondly, the FSC finalised the draft food security assessment tools for urban areas in Somalia. This initiative was implemented in partnership with the global food security cluster and WFP. In Somalia, the FSC worked closely with various government departments to refine the tools and eventually conduct their field testing.

FSC training in 2015 focused on food security project management, response planning and analysis, targeting and protection mainstreaming, accountability to affected populations, urban assessment and FSC reporting. The training sessions were mostly targeted at local NGOs and also contributed to strengthening the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of National Planning and Development staff capacities.

Management

Partnerships

The Somalia FSC is co-lead by WFP and FAO. In 2015, the cluster provided coordination services to 463 organizations, including 4 United Nations agencies (WFP, FAO, IOM and UNICEF), 72 international NGOs, and 385 local NGOs. The FSC continued the practice of requiring its membership to nominate and vote for organizations that would assume leadership positions within the cluster. These leadership positions included vice-coordinators responsible for leading regional level operations coordination; cluster review committee members that screened and vetted strategic response proposals and pooled fund projects; and Strategic Advisory Group members who guided the FSC and ensured that cluster priorities and activities addressed the needs of the cluster's broad membership. At a technical level, the cluster coordinated closely with the FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit - Somalia (FSNAU), Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and SWALIM to ensure that information on assessments and early warning was effectively disseminated to partners in a timely manner. The FSC successfully advocated for members to participate in the FSNAU-led seasonal assessments.

Lessons Learned

The FSC introduced accountability to affected populations (AAP) to its members and partners in 2015, and conducted a baseline survey to identify gaps in AAP mainstreaming. This baseline enabled FCS partners to identify gaps for internal or external support as well as peer learning. The results indicated that a significant number of agencies and partners had not fully intergrated AAP into key organizational processes. They also revealed that documentation of AAP issues was inadequate, and that information sharing with the affected populations and beneficiary feedback mechanisms needed to be strengthened. To address these issues, the cluster developed a comprehensive training module targeting front-line field staff and management. By the end of the year, agencies had developed AAP work plans and were showing considerable interest in building an organizational 'culture of accountability to affected populations'. The FSC found that the baseline survey was significant in mobilising interest and commitment among partners, particularly since the AAP training workshops were subsequently tailored according to the findings of the baseline survey.