



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Food
Programme

Side event on the Horn of Africa Drought

on the margins of the First Regular Session of the Executive Board

Tuesday, 21 February 2017, 9:00 – 9:50

Forum, WFP Headquarters

Breakfast will be served in the room from 8:30 to 9:00

You are kindly invited to the side event on the Horn of Africa Drought which will be chaired by Ramiro Lopes da Silva (Assistant Executive Director, Operations Services Department, WFP), along with Valerie Guarnieri (Regional Director for Eastern and Central Africa, WFP) and Dominique Burgeon (Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, FAO). Additional speakers will include FAO and WFP representatives from Ethiopia and Somalia, and government representatives from host and donor countries.

The drought in the Horn of Africa is generating a humanitarian crisis in Somalia, with urgent needs also in Kenya and Ethiopia. The number of people in crisis and emergency food insecurity now stands at 10.9 million in the three countries, with additional challenges across the region.

Livelihoods are severely stressed, particularly in terms of the impact on crops and livestock, and rising global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels are a serious concern. Governments are leading the planning, implementation and funding of the drought response in Kenya and Ethiopia, with support from humanitarian and development partners, while an urgent humanitarian scale up is required to prevent famine in Somalia. This drought is evolving against a backdrop of escalating needs in South Sudan.

WFP and FAO are working closely together with government, United Nations and NGO partners to ensure early warning leads to early response.