



THE EUROPEAN  
UNION IN SOMALIA

*Resilience is the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to withstand, adapt, and quickly recover from stresses and shocks such as drought, violence, conflict or natural disasters.*

# FOOD SECURITY

## Resource-based livelihoods and Agriculture



## I. AGRICULTURE

### 1. What are the resource-based livelihood systems in Somalia?

The three main resource-based livelihoods in Somalia are pastoralism and agro-pastoralism in the North, and agriculture in the South near the Shebelle and the Juba river. However, these three traditional livelihood systems have undergone a rapid and profound change: pastoralism is increasingly affected by settlement, agro-pastoralism is expanding with more partially cultivated areas, and many farmers had to abandon their land because of war and droughts.

### 2. Why is resilience so important?

Resilience is the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to withstand, adapt, and quickly recover from stresses and shocks such as drought, violence, conflict or natural disasters. It's particularly important in the Horn of Africa where there is increasing pressure to improve the population's capacity to cope with predictable shocks. In October 2012, the European Commission proposed a new policy on resilience to break the vicious cycle of drought, hunger and poverty through sustained coordination between humanitarian and development assistance. The policy will build on the promising results of the EU's initiatives in the Horn of Africa (SHARE) and in the Sahel (AGIR).

### 3. How does the EU support resilience?

In order to enhance resilience, the EU supports:

- Agriculture: As the main parts of Northern Somalia are very dry, the EU's agriculture support is limited to a few isolated projects such as the *Dur Dur project* in Somaliland and the *Bari Oasis project* in Puntland. The EU has developed a major 25 million EUR project in Puntland to fight desertification which is one of the main obstacles to food security in this region (read below).
- Seed production and crop development
- From canal rehabilitation to market support: Agriculture is an important activity in the Shabelle and Juba river valleys. In this region, the EU has for many years supported irrigation and flood control infrastructure. However, as canal rehabilitation should soon be carried out by the local authorities, EU support is currently shifting towards market support: supporting local production in order to capitalize on increased consumer demand for local food (maize, sorghum) and export (mainly sesame).
- Safety net programmes: These targeted grant programmes come in the form of cash transfers, school meals, food-for-work programmes, vouchers, food banks, or other means. They stop the negative spiral of food insecurity by helping farmers invest in more production, greater productivity, and assets. In northern Somalia, the EU works with CARE in Sool, with Adeso in Sanaag and with *Save the Children* in Karka on "cash transfer" programmes: large single headed families (mostly women) receive a small amount of predictable cash that

helps them to pay debts and build assets. In Southern Somalia, in Lower Juba, the EU, in partnership with Oxfam, will continue to support 22 community initiatives by supporting small community led projects.

### 4. What are the main achievements so far?

World Food programme (WFP) assessed the regions where the EU is supporting broad resilience projects in 2012 and confirmed that all these regions have a high degree of resilience. In Southern Somalia, about 50,000 farming and agro-pastoral households are benefitting from the EU support to irrigation and flood control infrastructure, and the seeds programme has achieved high quality performance and generated a profitable market for farmers.

Through our safety nets programmes, communities in Sanaag managed to create a "savings and loans" mechanism for their village. In Juba, community projects have led to the construction of boreholes, water catchment infrastructure, schools and other basic infrastructure.

## II. Livestock

### 1. Why is livestock the backbone of the Somali economy?

Livestock is central to the economic, social and cultural life of the Somali people, and in particular the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists that represent around 55% of the total population. Livestock trade and export remain the main source of revenue for the local administrations in Puntland and Somaliland. The federal authorities understand



the importance of this sector and recently opened Mogadishu port to livestock export. Globally, livestock contributes up to 40% of the GDP.

## 2. What are the biggest challenges for the livestock sector?

- Limited financial resources, weak institutions, absence of sector policies, and lack of professional human resources;
- Inability to control and eradicate trans-boundary diseases leading to frequent trade bans;
- Repetitive droughts and floods, and environmental degradation due to charcoal production;
- Absence of processing capacity and technology to transform and add value to products of animal origin.

## 3. How does the EU support livestock?

The EU has been the largest and most consistent donor for the sector since 2002. The EU's support is based on a "value chain approach", covering the entire food value chain, from pastoralist to consumer level. With an envelope of 33.1 million EUR for the period of 2008-2015, the EU works on training and capacity development for Somali institutions and on efficient veterinary services delivery, two key elements necessary to sustain the livestock exports.

The EU supports the Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre (STVS) in Somaliland. STVS aims at promoting training in extensive pastoral production systems and access to veterinary and other livestock services by 16.2 million pastoralists living in the Horn of Africa. The veterinary school is accredited to Makerere University in Uganda, and has strong linkages with other universities in Somalia, the Horn of Africa and Italy. In addition, in late 2012, it was officially adopted by the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) to serve as regional education institution

and, hence, all seven IGAD member states.

The EU also supports Somalia in transforming and adding value to products of animal origin that are important sources of job creation. The EU particularly focuses on markets for meat and milk, but also for bones that are transformed into ornamental products of high value. The implementing partners of EU livestock interventions include the FAO, AU-IBAR, IGAD and several international NGOs such as Terra Nuova, VSF-Germany, and COOPI.

## 4. What are the main achievements so far?

The training of human resources, re-establishment of competent veterinary services within livestock ministries, formation of veterinary boards and associations, vaccination of over 6.7 million livestock and the rehabilitation of livestock facilities have led to better monitoring, control and eradication of livestock diseases. This resulted in:

- The lifting of trade ban in November 2009 on export of livestock to Gulf States; export of Somali livestock increased from 2.5 Million in 2007 to 4.8 Million in 2011.
- The re-establishment of Somalia as a member of World Animal Health Organization (OIE) after 20 years of absence;
- The reduction of the negative effect of soaring food prices for the entire population;
- The development of a regulatory framework and quality assurance for the meat and milk industry in Somaliland and Puntland.

## III. Fisheries

### 1. Is the fishery sector an important economic sector in Somalia?

Somalia has the longest coastline in Africa, with 3,333 km stretch, and is estimated to harbour some of the richest fishing grounds in the world: Somalia waters have the highest number of spiny lobster and significant amount of tuna fish, and potential income from licences is estimated

at \$8.3 million annually. Conservative estimates put Somalia's sustainable annual marine fisheries production in the range of 300,000 Metric Tons (MT). However, due to underutilization, fisheries contribute only 2% of the Somalia GDP.

### 2. What is the biggest challenge for the fisheries sector?

- Inadequate governance structures, regulatory frameworks and capacity;
- Lack of capacity to monitor the coast line leading to piracy and suspicion of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- Lack of infrastructure such as market outlets, transportation, landing sites, and cold chain infrastructure;
- Delineation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which would allow Somalia to enjoy its privileges, rights and responsibilities to the extent of two hundred (200) nautical miles in the sea.
- Piracy and all related issues.

### 3. How does the EU support the fisheries sector?

The EU is starting a fisheries "pilot project" in Somaliland and Puntland aiming at strengthening public and private institutions to promote local fish production, trade and employment. The project involves institutional support at central, district and community level, and will also facilitate small scale fishermen and processors, as well as small and micro enterprises along the coastline. The activities will allow sustainable use of fisheries resources and processing of fish, and improve access to domestic and export markets.

**For more information:**

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