

## **Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster Draft Response Plan for the possible Floods**

### **Overall Response Strategy**

The Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster approach in mitigating the affects of the possible floods combines preparedness activities, short-term emergency relief with a series of early recovery interventions.

The cluster is in the process of completing its 3W matrix and anticipates concluding this exercise by 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 (as part of the CAP 2010 pre-requisite). With this information, the cluster will be in a position to identify key partners (organizations) operating in the flood affected regions and better determine the appropriate partners for intervention in the flood response.

It is essential at this point to identify the risk areas on the base of historical data coming from the 1997 El Nino related event onward till the more recent 2006-2007 flood. This will facilitate better understanding on which areas are likely to be affected first as well as strategize and agree on an intervention timeline.

### **A. Preparedness and risk mitigation activities**

- 1) Support in assessment to identify weak river embankments along the selected risk areas in co-ordination with other partners.
- 2) Support the mobilization of people to higher elevations areas (moving people in advance as soon the risk increases will allow re-allocation with people and their assets)
- 3) Undertake activities to strengthen river embankments in order to lower the impact of the floods – For instance, strengthening river embankments with sacks through cash-for-work schemes, with technical support from Swalim.
- 4) Promote, where possible, awareness for community on protecting underground grain storage systems prior to the floods and provision of appropriate storage tins.
- 5) Drainage water system construction/rehabilitation in urban and peri-urban areas, through cash for work.
- 6) Prevention of occurrence of flood related diseases such as Rift Valley Fever applying preventive measures on livestock such as :
  - Community awareness in the risky areas on the possible outbreak of RVF and human health implication (FAO Somalia has produced a risk mapping where RVF foci area identified)
  - Intervention on livestock assets to prevent infection from RVF (Vector control measures) through the application of mosquito repellent ingredients
  - Vaccination of livestock against flood related diseases (Black quarter, Anthrax, HS)

## **B. Emergency Relief Interventions**

**1) Support, protect and promote food Security (Linkage with the Food Aid and Nutrition Clusters to ensure co-ordinated response)** - The objective is to ensure that people have adequate food and non-food items in a manner that ensures their survival, prevents erosion of assets and upholds their dignity. This can be achieved through preventing further erosion of livelihoods assets and promoting a process of recovery.

Although food distribution is the most common response to acute food insecurity, other interventions can be undertaken to meet the affected populations' immediate food needs. For instance, improving purchasing power through provision of job and income opportunities through food for work and cash for work programmes.

**2) Support to Shelter and Settlement (Linkage with the Shelter Cluster)** – The objective is to support the repair or construction of settlements of displaced households within the existing communities. To maximize on local livelihoods opportunities, labour for the repair/contruction of settlements can be sourced from the affected local community and payment provided through cash-for-work schemes.

**3) Provision of Non-Food Items (Linkage with Shelter and NFI cluster)** - For instance, provision of tools that are appropriate for livelihood support activities.

### **4) Protection of livelihoods assets from further deterioration**

a) Emergency treatment of livestock from diseases occurring and intensified as result of flood

**C. Early Recovery Interventions** – In addition to playing a role in immediate response to the floods, there is a need for early recovery interventions or support to re-establishment of livelihoods. Early recovery interventions could include:

- a) Providing communities with seeds and agricultural inputs to enable them to yield good crop production in the next harvest
- b) Emergency veterinary services