



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO)

Building food system resilience in protracted crises

Somaliland

In numbers



focus area

**Sool and Sanaag in
Somaliland**



beneficiaries

20 000 households



budget

US\$ 7.8 million



period

Oct 2019 - Sep 2023

The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), funded by the Government of the Netherlands, is a four-year plan addressing the cause-effect relationship between conflict and food insecurity in Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan.

FNS-REPRO is the first programme in Eastern Africa specifically designed to foster peace and food security at scale. The programme will employ a livelihood and resilience-based approach in some of the least stable regions, where interventions are normally exclusively of a humanitarian nature. Its design will allow FAO and partners to set good examples of how to build food system resilience in protracted crises and strengthen cooperation across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus towards this end.

The case of Somaliland

Despite relative stability, Somaliland remains in a fragile situation, where multiple threats and shocks co-exist and may risk reversing economic gain unless they are addressed in a strategic and sustainable manner. Populations in Somaliland are recurrently acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 and above), with the Sool and Sanaag regions being often the worst affected. The recurrence of populations falling back into food insecurity in Somaliland demonstrate that their resilience and the resilience of their food system is low, further demonstrating that current interventions and programming are not sufficient.

Much of Somaliland's economic growth is attributable to livestock production and trade, which is the dominant system of production in the country. Livestock is the most important foreign exchange earner of Somaliland, which gets around US\$200 million from the export of livestock mainly to Saudi Arabia. As such, livestock production makes up the backbone of Somaliland's economy, accounting for about 65 per cent of its economy. However, droughts, overgrazing, land degradation, and an underdeveloped feed/fodder value chain lead to frequent shortage of animal feed which severely impacts pastoral livelihoods, food security, nutrition and overall well-being.

What will FNS-REPRO do in Somaliland?

In Somaliland, FNS-REPRO will focus on the fodder value chain, which cuts across humanitarian and development interventions, with numerous missing links in between (particularly its access and use by



"...a rangeland cannot be a rangeland without pastoralists' (knowledge); and a pastoralist cannot (survive) without rangeland"

Somali elder (Bouh and Mammo, 2008)

poor pastoralists). Fodder represents both a major need and opportunity, considering its scarcity, demand and market potential, and it being a recurrent need in humanitarian response that is difficult, costly and inefficient to import – as experienced during the 2016/17 drought.

The programme's overall outcome will be resilient livelihoods and food systems and contributions to sustainable localized peace. This will be achieved through:

1. Improved inclusive access and management of local natural resources
2. Improved livelihood and income opportunities along the fodder value chain
3. Enhanced knowledge, skills and capacity of local communities around nutrition-sensitive livelihood support
4. Establish and implement a learning mechanism that reinforces field activities and facilitates improved policy and practice on food system resilience

FNS-REPRO proposed activities centred on the fodder value chain in Somaliland will increase the resilience of communities and their food security status by:

- **Increasing fodder and feed productivity and reducing production costs**, through capacity building, aggregation, increasing storage capacity and processing capacity, and achieving economies of scale;
- **Restoration of degraded rangelands and actions against desertification**, such as Prosopis management and community tree planting;
- **Strengthening the capacity of agro-pastoral and pastoral producer organizations** to effectively participate in the feed/fodder value chain, and;
- **Promoting good agriculture practices** to maximize crop yields and improve the nutrition quality of crop residues while diversifying food available for people.

Partnerships

The programme will be implemented through a strong partnership between FAO, Wageningen University and Research Centre, and international and national non-governmental organizations. The Government of the Netherlands as well as the Somaliland government will be closely involved.



Funded by:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Implemented in partnership with:



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO)

Building food system resilience in protracted crises

South Sudan

In numbers



focus areas

Akobo, Aweil, Bor, Renk, Torit, Wau, Yambio



beneficiaries

53 100 households



budget

US\$ 6.4 million



period

Oct 2020 - Sep 2023

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FNS-REPRO is FAO's first programme in Eastern Africa specifically designed to foster peace and food security at scale. The programme will employ a livelihood and resilience based approach in some of the least stable regions, where interventions are normally exclusively of a humanitarian nature. Its design will allow FAO and partners to set good examples of how to build food system resilience in protracted crises and strengthen cooperation across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus towards this end.

The case of South Sudan

South Sudan faces unprecedented humanitarian needs, with more than 6 million people facing food insecurity crisis, and about 2 million internally displaced or in situation of armed conflicts. This is exacerbated by recurrent inter and intra tribal conflicts resulting into loss of lives and productive assets. Displacement from agricultural and grazing land is rampant in many locations due to these conflicts.

Despite this, communities in South Sudan are still able to produce, trade, and grow seeds, building on existing capacities and resources. Strengthening capacities for agricultural seed value chain is a promising path to supporting agricultural development and promoting economic growth and sustainability.

Despite the many challenges, opportunities to develop value chains in the seed sector exist. First and foremost with the objective to close the cereal production gap, while eventually providing more diversified products for local, national, and export markets.

In South Sudan, the seed sector has been selected as the FNS-REPRO entry point, because shortages of quality seeds and planting materials necessary to enable farmers to produce sufficient food for their families and a surplus for sale have been a constraint for many generations.



What will FNS-REPRO do in South Sudan?

The programme's overall outcome will be resilient livelihoods and food systems and contributions to sustainable localized peace. This will be achieved through:

1. Improved inclusive access and management of local natural resources
2. Improved livelihood and income opportunities along the seed value chain
3. Enhanced knowledge, skills and capacity of local communities around nutrition-sensitive livelihood support
4. Establish and implement a learning mechanism that reinforces field activities and facilitates improved policy and practice on food system resilience

FNS-REPRO proposed activities in South Sudan will increase the resilience of communities and their food security status by:

- Addressing the constraints to accessibility, availability, affordability and quality of seeds of adapted varieties through an integrated seed system approach
- Improving seed quality assurance to build on farmer trust and stimulate demand for quality seed
- Strengthening formal and informal outlets and local markets for agricultural inputs through support to farmers' organizations and small entrepreneurs to effectively bridge the last mile delivery of improved agricultural inputs to smallholder farmers
- Developing institutional and organizational capacity to support the establishment of an integrated, sustainable, resilient and robust seed system
- Providing opportunities for conservation of crop-biodiversity in order to enhance the resilience of the seed and crop system

Since there are numerous cross-border and regional dimensions to food system resilience such as pastoralism, conflict and migration patterns, and sustainable natural resource management, FNS-REPRO has been designed with a dedicated regional (learning) component.

Partnerships

The programme will be implemented through a strong partnership between FAO, Wageningen University and Research Centre, and international and national non-governmental organizations. The Government of the Netherlands as well as the government of South Sudan will be closely involved.



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**Food and Agriculture
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Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO)

Building food system resilience in protracted crises

Sudan

In numbers



focus area

North and East Darfur States



beneficiaries

25 384 households



budget

US\$ 7.8 million



period

Oct 2019 - Sep 2023

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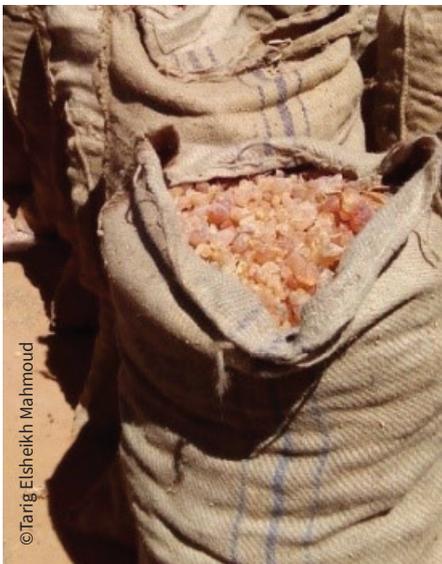
FNS-REPRO is FAO's first programme in Eastern Africa specifically designed to foster peace and food security at scale. The programme will employ a livelihood and resilience-based approach in some of the least stable regions, where interventions are normally exclusively of a humanitarian nature. Its design will allow FAO and partners to set good examples of how to build food system resilience in protracted crises and strengthen cooperation across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus towards this end.

The case of Darfur

The Darfur conflict triggered an unprecedented international humanitarian response that continues to date. Over the past five years, the Government of Sudan and international actors have been actively seeking ways to shift from humanitarian response to early recovery, prevention, and building resilience.

Despite an overall reduction in violence, the structural drivers of conflict in Darfur remain practically unaddressed. Such drivers include poor rule of law, lack of services, political and social conflict, uncertain land tenure, unsustainable management of natural resources, and the weakening of social infrastructure. As a result of environmental degradation, the shrinking natural resource base further contributes to food insecurity and greater competition over access to land. In Darfur, this has directly contributed to violence around control of water points, between nomadic pastoralist communities as grazing routes become less productive, between nomads and settled farming communities over grazing rights on farmland, and between farming communities over who has control of productive farmland.

In Darfur, the gum arabic value chain has been selected as the FNS-REPRO entry point. This is because it plays a central element in people's livelihood strategies ranging from survival (during humanitarian crisis) to improved management of new and existing resources; to provide additional income earning opportunities and livelihood diversification (stabilization and development). The gum arabic value chain is essential to the farming system and the resilience of target beneficiaries' in Darfur.



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"In the drylands of sub-Saharan Africa, gum arabic is [...] consumed as a famine food in periods of severe drought and food insecurity and as a regular foodstuff by herders and gum tappers in remote arid zones"

Commodities at a glance: Special issue on gum arabic (UNCTAD, 2018)

What will FNS-REPRO do in Sudan?

The programme's overall outcome is resilient livelihoods and food systems, and contributions to sustainable localized peace. This will be achieved through:

1. Improved, inclusive access and management of local natural resources,
2. Improved livelihood and income opportunities along the gum arabic value chain,
3. Enhanced knowledge, skills and capacity of local communities around nutrition-sensitive livelihood support, and
4. Establish and implement a learning mechanism that reinforces field activities and facilitates improved policy and practice on food system resilience.

FNS-REPRO's proposed activities centred on the gum arabic value chain in Darfur will increase the resilience of communities and their food security status by:

- **Diversifying livelihoods and increasing incomes**, through improving technical, organizational and commercial capacity to produce and market gum arabic;
- **Supporting landscape restoration and reduce degradation**, thus building back the green belt in Darfur;
- **Reducing conflict between crop and livestock producers**, through rehabilitating livestock corridors and increasing fodder availability; and
- **Increasing the share in the benefits of the gum arabic production for women and youth**, such as through the support of existing and creation of new dedicated women and youth producer groups.

Since there numerous cross-border and regional dimensions to food system resilience such as pastoralism, conflict and migration patterns, sustainable natural resource management, FNS-REPRO has been designed with a dedicated regional learning component. In addition, FAO will strengthen animal feed data and information, reporting, and communication systems and tools; thus linking resilience, food security and conflict with natural resource shortages, increasing variability and extreme weather.

Partnerships

The Programme will be implemented through a strong partnership between FAO and Wageningen University and Research Centre. FNS-REPRO will also benefit from local strategic partnerships with non-governmental organizations, private sector companies and universities/research centers. The Government of the Netherlands as well as the Government of Sudan (through the Forest National Corporation) will be closely involved.



“Due to its potential to generate foreign exchange reserves, ensure food security, promote sustainable agriculture and forestry, and combat desertification and climate change, gum arabic is a promising commodity for a number of sub-Saharan African countries”

Commodities at a glance: Special issue on gum arabic (UNCTAD, 2018)

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