



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO)

QUARTER 1 | 2023 SNAPSHOT



Photos: FAO / Keen Joosten / Abdirisak Yusuf / Shi Isack

⊕ Full Speed Ahead!

Recap and Outlook for 2023

Throughout 2022, the Eastern Africa region has been witnessing an increase in the severity and incidence of shocks and stressors. This is true for FNS-REPRO target areas as well.

In Somaliland, the drought situation that continued until March 2023, drove tensions, disputes and conflict over pasture and water, aggravating insecurity, displacement and environmental degradation while negatively affecting livelihoods and undermining resilience capacities in a context characterised by high levels of unemployment especially among youth. On top of this, the political conflict in and around Las Anood is driving internal displacement and is impacting already vulnerable communities.

In the Sudan, violence and political instability continue to define the context. The power struggle between military factions that erupted in mid-April 2023 after a faltering transition to a civilian-led government, is particularly worrying as civilians bear the brunt of the violence. The fighting is exacerbating an already difficult (humanitarian) situation in Sudan. It is currently unclear how the conflict will impact FNS-REPRO target areas, the gum arabic value chain, and the country in the long term. Previously, localised conflicts were commonplace between farmers and herders, IDPs and host communities. In addition, inadequate systems and mechanisms to manage natural resources have ensured that conflicts continue to weaken the capacity of communities and households to withstand shocks.

In South Sudan is grappling with both political and resource-based conflicts, mobility restrictions due to insecurity, intensification of both droughts and floods and the challenges of reintegration of IDPs and returnees. As a result, in the post-harvest projections for the December 2022 to March 2023 period, an estimated 6.31 million people (51 per cent of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity. This increases to an estimated 7.76 million people (63 per cent of the population) in the lean season of April to July.

In all three countries, inter-communal clashes over access and control of natural resources are reportedly on the rise, especially in areas with fair, good and very good forage and water availability - with youths as the main perpetrators.

Additionally, production and productivity have diminished, leading to the loss of livelihoods. This is perpetuating cycles of conflict and food insecurity. Furthermore, local food prices are expected to continue to go up as food stocks run low and global food prices increase.

Despite this, implementation is at full-speed across all of FNS-REPRO's components.

This is guided by three country-specific sustainability and exit strategies, which focus on ensuring ownership of activities and structures put in place by FNS-REPRO, as well as capacity to sustain and willingness to maintain them. Across the countries, the programme focuses particularly on beneficiary groups and cooperatives, native leaders and elders, local and regional government, national government, and enhanced private sector collaboration.

In addition, FNS-REPRO was extended by six months up to 31 March 2024. This will allow the programme to capture a full (rather than cut short) agriculture season in South Sudan as well as the gum Arabic tapping season in Sudan. In addition, the final evaluation for the programme will be officially kicked off in March 2023 and is expected to be completed in approximately 6 months. Having the results of the final evaluation available early will inform future programming and enhance learning while FNS-REPRO is still active.

FNS-REPRO's Learning Agenda has integrated its 'Farmer-Inclusive Value Chain Development' (FARE) approach in Sudan and Somaliland to support ongoing efforts to improve Gum Arabic and Fodder value chain development, in partnership with local universities. Moreover, WUR has been finalising qualitative data collection efforts that will inform FNS-REPRO lessons learned and the upcoming write-shops, thus informing the final evaluation.

Lastly, a range of range of studies, assessments and reports have recently been published as part of the programme's Learning Agenda and can be found on www.fns-repro.com

+ Highlights

6th FNS-REPRO Global Programme Steering Committee meeting

The sixth meeting of the Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme Global Programme Steering Committee (GPSC) was held in a hybrid manner on Wednesday 15 March 2023, attended by representatives from The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Governments from the Ministries responsible for FNS-REPRO, FAO and WUR.



Asha's Story: Rural agropastoralists like Asha from Waadaamago in Sool Region still rely heavily on traditional methods of food production that have been unable to cope with changing weather patterns and increasingly erratic rainfall. To enhance inclusive access and management of natural resources, FAO is working with local community leaders and local and regional authorities to establish peace-building and conflict resolution mechanisms.



Livestock Development Hubs are community centres that bring together livestock value chain actors such as livestock and fodder producers, livestock and fodder traders, agrovet input suppliers, agriculture extension staff, financial institutions, local universities and development agencies. The centre's goal is to increase food security and nutrition by developing community-driven sustainable livestock and fodder production and commercialisation of community produce. This document describes FNS-REPRO's strategy to create a vibrant and sustainable LDH's across Sool and Sanaag regions



Addressing Conflict - Building Peace: Based on the findings of the multi-dimensional context analyses and consultations with programme personnel and FNS-REPRO's implementing partners, this document highlights some of the key issues facing youth and women and provides guidance on what the FNS-REPRO could do to increase their meaningful engagement in the project and community-level initiatives.



+ From the field



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About the Programme:

FNS-REPRO is the first FAO programme in Eastern Africa specifically designed to foster peace and food security at scale. Its four-year plan addresses the cause-effect relationship between conflict and food insecurity in Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan. FAO implements FNS-REPRO in partnership with WUR-WCDI. Funded by the Government of the Netherlands



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