



Livestock Emergency  
Intervention to Mitigate  
Food Crisis in Somalia

**LEISOM**



AFRICAN UNION  
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR  
ANIMAL RESOURCES**

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES FOR AFRICA

## About AU-IBAR

The African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC). AU-IBAR's mandate is to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union (AU). The control and eradication of transboundary animal diseases is a key prerequisite to the effective utilization of animal resources. In addition, the provision of essential support to Member States with special needs or in emergency situations such as Somalia will ensure the fulfillment of the AU-IBAR mandate.

## Rationale

Somalia currently faces one of the worst humanitarian crises in its recent history with over 3.6 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and livelihood support. Somalia is also unable to produce sufficient cereals to feed its entire population and more than 50% of the cereal requirements come from commercial imports and food relief programmes.

Hyperinflation has affected the prices of basic food commodities and the internationally soaring food prices further exacerbated the humanitarian situation. The impact of high world food prices has been high in Somalia where food

imports represent a significant percentage of domestic supplies.

Livestock is the mainstay of the Somali economy and the basis for the livelihoods of the largely pastoral and agro-pastoral population. The export of live animals and other livestock commodities generates the foreign currencies for importation of food items. Livestock marketing and trade also generate revenues for local administrations, through taxation of livestock destined for domestic and export markets. However, the terms of trade between livestock commodities and imported foods deteriorated due to soaring food prices that required poor livestock producers to sell more animals and animal products to procure the same amount of imported foodstuffs. This further depleted their already low asset holdings. Livestock disease outbreaks also cause heavy production losses that negatively affect the poor and their nutritional and health status.

In December 2008, the European Parliament and the Council adopted

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...political instability, conflict, civilian displacement, cyclic droughts, floods, disease outbreaks and extreme inflation in Somalia have eroded the ability of over 3.6 million people to cope with the food crisis...

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a Regulation (EC) No 1337/2008, establishing the “Food Facility” for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries. The Livestock Emergency Intervention to Mitigate the Food Crisis in Somalia (LEISOM) project is a joint initiative of AU-IBAR and the European Union (EU) under the EU Food Facility.

LEISOM will contribute to efforts to mitigate the negative impact of the high food prices through:

- Enhanced livestock health by vaccination of sheep and goats against peste des petits ruminants (PPR), contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and sheep and goat pox, and treatment of livestock for endemic diseases that affect production.
- Support for rehabilitation of livestock marketing infrastructure and improvement of their management systems to enhance livestock trade.

These measures will help to preserve the most important productive assets of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and the poor who depend on livestock for their livelihoods and thus, increase their incomes and enhance their resilience.

## Synergies and complementarities

LEISOM complements activities of the on-going EU-funded SAHSP II, SERECU II and SOLICEP projects and the Danish Government funded Regions of Origin III project (Livestock Component). It also builds synergies with related emergency interventions implemented by FAO-Somalia.

## Modalities for implementation

The implementation of the LEISOM is coordinated by AU-IBAR in

close partnership with the Somali veterinary authorities, relevant private sector actors and four international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); namely, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Terra Nuova, VETAID and Veterinaires Sans Frontieres – Germany (VSF-Germany). AU-IBAR and the NGO implementing partners are in the process of finalizing memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with the Somali veterinary authorities and the Livestock Professional Associations in Somaliland, Puntland and central/south Somalia to facilitate the implementation of field activities.



A project Steering Committee (SC) has been established to provide the overall guidance on policy and strategy for the effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project. The SC meets under the chairmanship of the Director, AU-IBAR.

## Sustainability

The project will further strengthen existing local capacities and structures to respond to veterinary emergencies. In addition, the livestock marketing infrastructure facilities will be established and managed through public-private partnerships that give greater responsibilities and incentives to the private sector for continued operation and management of the rehabilitated structures.

**Goal** To reduce the negative effect of soaring food prices on Somali pastoralists and agro-pastoralists

**Objective** To increase the sustainable contribution of livestock to mitigate the negative impact of the current food crisis

## Main Expected Results

- Productivity of small ruminants increased through enhanced animal health status in the pastoral production systems in Somalia.
- Performance of livestock marketing system improved through rehabilitation of infrastructures and improvement of their management systems.

**Geographical Coverage** Countrywide.

**August 2009—July 2011** Project implementation period.

**Beneficiaries** Vulnerable pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households and the poor in villages and peri-urban areas who depend on livestock for their livelihoods.

## Stakeholders

Livestock keepers, livestock traders and associated livestock industry operators, Ministries of Livestock, Livestock Professional Associations, Local Authorities/Municipalities.

## 4 million euros

Amount in the Financing Agreement signed by AU-IBAR and the EU.

African Union – Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)  
Kenindia Business Park, Museum Hill, Westlands Road  
P.O. Box 30786, 00100 Nairobi, KENYA  
Telephone: +254 (20) 3674 000  
Fax: +254 (20) 3674 341 / 3674 342  
email: [ibar.office@au-ibar.org](mailto:ibar.office@au-ibar.org) | website: [www.au-ibar.org](http://www.au-ibar.org)

Implementing partners:



Financial support:

