



SPECIFIC SECTOR VERIFICATION AND REPORTS ON THE USE COF43 AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF COF 44 CLIMATE OUTLOOK PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

1. Background

The sectors that were included in this session include: agriculture and food security, water and energy, livestock, FSNWG and disaster risk management. Implications of the OND 2016 forecast was done through group discussions the previous day during which participants from different sectors deliberated on the likely implications, impacts and mitigation measures of the GHACOF 44 outlook in their different sectors. The deliberations were then reported back to plenary by representatives from each sector.

2. Key points from discussions

2.1. Agriculture and food security

The sector first reviewed the performance of the JJAS 2016 rains and noted that northern region of GHA had received enhanced rains whereas for most of the equatorial and southern regions received erratic rains. The sector also hinted on MAM season and noted that MAM rains performed poorly in that they established late (in April) and ceased early (in May) before the crops had matured. The sector went on to review GHACOF 44 outlook and its implication and proposed mitigation measures for each of the forecasted zones. For the areas forecasted to receive enhanced rains, the group noted that there are good prospects for improved crop performance and food production. However, there are risks of post-harvest losses in the uni-modal areas, risk of landslides and flooding in Eastern parts of Uganda and South Sudan, and proliferation of pests and diseases. On the other hand, forecasted below normal rains within crop production areas are likely to negatively impact crop production.

On mitigation measures, the sector noted that there was a false start of rains in most areas of the GHA during the JJAS 2016 season and therefore farmers are encouraged to re-plant with early maturing varieties. Farmers should take advantage of enhanced rains in the zones forecasted to do so by planting high yielding varieties like hybrids and also adopt climate smart agriculture technologies (water harvesting, trenches, etc).

In areas forecasted to receive depressed rains, farmers are advised to plant drought resistant crop varieties like cassava, sorghum and legumes. They are also advised to adopt soil and water conservation technologies, scaling up of safety net programmes and soil and water conservation.

2.2. Water and energy:

The sector reviewed the implication of GHACOF 44 outlook and proposed mitigation measures for each member state in the GHA. The group looked at basins and catchment areas and the likely implications on the anticipated discharge. In areas



forecasted to have enhanced rains, there is possibility of flooding that might lead to displacement and good prospects for hydropower generation. On the other hand, below normal rains might affect water supply to cities, depressed water availability for pastoralists, reliance on few boreholes which might lead to conflict, and migration.

2.3. Livestock

The sector reviewed the implication of GHACOF 44 outlook and proposed mitigation measures for each member state. For the areas forecasted to receive enhanced rains, the group noted that the movement of livestock may not be necessary. However, outbreak and incidence of vector borne disease may increase and challenges to access livestock for routine vaccination may be hampered due to flooding that leads to impassable roads and

Conflicts. The group proposed that continuous monitoring of the rainfall performance and the same information must be relayed to the local authorities and NGO's for action and planning.

For areas predicted to experience depressed rains, the sector anticipates increased livestock mobility in search of pastures and water, and stressed pasture conditions. The proposed mitigation measures were provision of vaccination services against transboundary diseases, Monitoring and Commercial destocking if situation worsens, supplemental feeding and water supply.

2.4. Disaster risk management

The sector reviewed the implication of GHACOF 44 outlook on DRM sector and proposed mitigation measures for each member state in the GHA. For the areas forecasted to receive enhanced rains, there is a potential risk for flooding, possibility of landslides and mud flows. On the other hand, there is potential for improved animal body weight and size in the cattle corridor districts of Uganda. For the areas expecting below normal rains, the sector noted the likelihood of increased risk of food insecurity especially in regions that are already experiencing it, increase in cases of animal diseases associated with drought and high likelihood of animal sale off due to lack of pasture.

The sector recommended the following as mitigation measures. First, community sensitizations (Early Warning) of the likely impacts from the forecast should be carried out, relocation of households in landslide risk areas to safe areas/hosts until end of season, additional households involved in public works to earn cash for work under Disaster Risk Financing, review of humanitarian response plan with partners, Identification of most vulnerable communities (mostly pastoralists, and rural/border communities), exploring community-based conflict mechanisms (CEWARU) and need to involve national platform for disaster risk reduction in coordination and planning.



2.5. FSNWG

The FSNWG group noted that around 29.96 million people in the GHA are currently food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance. The group further noted that as of August 2016, the countries with the highest proportion of food insecure are: Ethiopia (9.7 million), DRC (5.9 million), South Sudan (4.8 million), Sudan (4.4 million), and Burundi (2.3 million).

The FSNWG further noted that the high food insecurity in South Sudan was due in part to food price spikes in the lean season and insecurity in the Equatorias, Unity and WBG.

In general, food insecurity remains despite fairly favourable rainfall in some pastoral areas in eastern Ethiopia; Food insecurity increased in Aug 2016 by 51 percent compared with the same period in 2015; Significant increases in Ethiopia, Burundi, Sudan, South-Sudan, and to a much lesser extent Somalia and Djibouti; Food insecure decreased in Ethiopia by 0.5 million in August (HRD) since Dec 2015-Jan 2016; Food insecurity is on the rise in South Sudan due to impacts of recent insecurity; Food insecurity is also increasing in Somalia due to poor rainfall performance in the past consecutive rain seasons.

3. Implications of GHACOF44 outlook and Hotspots

South-central & Northern Somalia

- *Deyr pastoral rains may fail;*
- *Further deterioration due to current below-average Gu harvest, mainly in Southern Central & riverine areas;*
- *Further deterioration of food security in pastoral areas (Somaliland and Puntland), already affected by consecutive below average seasons performance.*

Northern-eastern pastoral + south-eastern & coastal marginal areas of Kenya

- *Short rains likely to be below average in the vast majority of the country (except Lake basin area);*
- *Further deterioration of food security likely in the marginal agricultural areas, such as the coastal region;*
- *In the ASALs pastoral areas, earlier deterioration of rangelands, pastures and water for livestock likely to occur leading to outmigration and reduction in livestock productivity.*

Southern Ethiopia pastoral areas (Somali region)

- *Deyr pastoral rains likely to be below average, likely to lead to earlier deterioration of rangelands, pastures and water for livestock;*
- *Impact on ToT should be partially reduced by favorable current Meher harvests.*

Djibouti

- *Heys/Dada coastal rains (pastoral)*



Finally, the FSNWG noted that the malnutrition rates in the ASALs of Northern Kenya are already at critical levels (likely non-food security related) so are likely to be further negatively affected by deterioration in the rangelands; Potential impacts of above average rains and risk of flooding in some areas may affect accessibility in refugee sites in Sudan, Gambella, Eastern Nile, PoC sites. For South Sudan – negative implications for the depressed rains for those few farmers who may have planted in the Western greenbelt (2nd rainy season).

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