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FINANCE COMMITTEE

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**Report on the Special Fund for Emergency and Resilience Activities
(SFERA)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Special Fund for Emergency and Resilience Activities (SFERA) enables the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to take rapid and effective action in response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies. SFERA has three components: (i) a working capital component to advance funds upon confirmation of a resource partner's commitment, enabling the timely initiation of emergency activities; (ii) a revolving fund component to support assessments, programme development and emergency response capacities; and (iii) a programme component to support large-scale emergency programmes, including the Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) window and the Anticipatory Action (AA) window.
- Effective January 2025, the fund was renamed the “Special Fund for Emergency and **Resilience** Activities”, replacing its former title “Special Fund for Emergency and **Rehabilitation** Activities”. The revised name reflects FAO's shift from short-term rehabilitation towards integrated emergency and resilience programming, supporting more resilient agrifood systems. In operational terms, this includes stronger linkages between anticipatory action, emergency response, and longer-term resilience investments, in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. By also prioritizing resilience building, the Fund supports countries and communities to better prevent, anticipate, absorb and adapt to shocks, while strengthening the effectiveness and sustainability of FAO's emergency and recovery interventions.
- From its inception in 2004 through 31 December 2025, SFERA has received USD 493.7 million. Under the programme component, USD 178 million was allocated to large-scale programmes (e.g. locust response, sudden onset disasters, climate crisis, highly pathogenic avian influenza, or protracted crises); USD 141 million was disbursed under the AIRC window; and USD 55.3 million was allocated to the AA window. Under the revolving fund component, USD 52.7 million was used to set up or reinforce Country Office emergency response capacities and support needs assessments and programme formulation, and USD 28.8 million were allocated to the Level 3 (scale-up) emergency preparedness and response window.
- Since SFERA's inception, under its working capital component, USD 655.7 million has been advanced to fund immediate emergency projects, of which USD 9.5 million was advanced over the reporting period. Outstanding advances as of 31 December 2025 amounted to USD 0.9 million.
- SFERA's cash balance as of 31 December 2025 was USD 37 million.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- This document is provided for information.

I. Background

1. During its Hundred and Second Session in May 2003, the Finance Committee supported the creation of SFERA, with the purpose of enabling the Organization to rapidly initiate emergency operations by participating in interagency needs assessment and coordination activities, establishing an emergency coordination unit, preparing a programme framework and projects, and providing advance funding for procurement of inputs when a resource partner's commitment has been obtained.¹

2. This annual report provides a brief description of the major operations initiated with SFERA funds for the 12-month period ending 31 December 2025. The report contains financial data for this period, as well as data since the Fund became operational. A summary table of receipts, advances, applications and balance is available in **Annex 1**.

II. SFERA Set up

3. SFERA has three components: (i) a working capital component to advance funds once a resource partner's commitment is secured toward the immediate procurement of inputs to protect livelihoods, restart agricultural activities, or contribute to an immediate response to a crisis; (ii) a revolving fund component to support FAO's involvement in needs assessment, programme development, early establishment and reinforcement of emergency country team capacities, Level 3 (scale-up) emergency preparedness and response activities,² and (iii) a programme component to support work on specific large-scale emergency programmes, or strategically complement ongoing programmes through the AIRC window, as well as the AA window triggered by corporate early warnings.

Table 1. SFERA components and windows

Working capital component	Revolving fund component	Programme component
Advances to enable rapid response	- Emergency coordination and response capacity window - Needs assessment and programme development window - Level 3 (scale-up) emergency preparedness and response window	- Large-scale programme window (e.g. sudden-onset disasters, highly pathogenic avian influenza, climate crisis, regional protracted crises) - AIRC window - AA window - Centrality of protection and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) window

4. The **working capital component** reduces the reaction time to emergencies by enabling FAO to initiate activities and procure the most critical assets before funding from resource partners is received. By enabling a rapid response, this component helps to mitigate the impact of threats and emergencies and accelerates the recovery of those affected.

5. The **revolving fund component** supports the efforts of FAO's emergency country teams to identify the most critical needs of affected populations, strengthen response capacity, and develop and coordinate technically sound response programmes. Through the Level 3 emergency preparedness and response window, FAO can prepare for and respond to the extraordinary challenges facing the agriculture sector during a Level 3 (scale-up) emergency.

¹ FC 102/14

² Sudden onset, large-scale disasters and crises that require a corporate response.

6. The **programme component** facilitates faster and more programmatic assistance that can be tailored to evolving needs on the ground. SFERA's pooled funding approach provides the flexibility to adjust activities and support according to the geographical and thematic areas of greatest need.

7. Likewise, the programme approach enables operations to adapt as the situation changes, streamlining activities to ensure the most appropriate assistance reaches affected populations sooner. The programme component also includes the AIRC window that channels pooled funds towards the immediate procurement and delivery of time-critical inputs. With the AA window, FAO is enabled to act early once an impending threat has been identified before disaster losses are sustained in the agriculture sector or livelihoods compromised. Finally, the centrality of protection and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) window aims at strengthening the Organization's capacities in terms of protection, accountability to affected people and PSEA.

III. SFERA resources

8. Since SFERA's inception in April 2004, the Fund has received a total of USD 493.7 million. Of this amount, USD 363.1 million were provided by the Members listed in Table 2, including USD 10.5 million provided by resource partners that transferred the balances of closed emergency projects to SFERA. During the period of January–December 2025, deposits to SFERA amounted to USD 30.1 million.

Table 2. SFERA funding receipts

Contributors	Since inception (USD 000)	Jan–Dec 2025 (USD 000)
Australia	220	2
Austria	1 157	25
Belgium	90 841	5 869
Canada	13 963	0
Chile	5	0
China	500	0
Czechia	36	0
Finland	3 747	0
France	10 119	307
Germany	25 247	3 476
Greece	227	0
Holy See	30	0
Ireland	7 424	0
Italy	1 490	0
Japan	430	0
Jordan	60	0
Kuwait	50	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14	0
Luxembourg	8	0
Malta	212	88
Monaco	59	0
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	9 681	0
New Zealand	13	0
Norway	84 138	1 785
Pakistan	1	0
Portugal	369	167
Republic of Korea	76	0
Saudi Arabia	1 377	0
Slovenia	107	0
South Africa	452	0
Spain	520	0
Sweden	55 921	4 458
Switzerland	4 942	0
United Arab Emirates	12	0
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	49 661	3 881
Others (less than 5 000) – Members	2	0
Total Member Countries	363 111	20 058

Contributors	Since inception (USD 000)	Jan–Dec 2025 (USD 000)
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	10 074	74
Others (less than 5 000) – Non-Members	44	2
Direct operating cost recovery	117 448	9 500
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries	481	0
Louis Dreyfus Foundation	562	234
United Nations entities ³	1 940	267
Grand total	493 659	30 135

As of 31 December 2025 – Source: compiled from subsidiary records and agreed to the general ledger.

9. In view of the growing number of crises and responses, the resources received in 2025 were critical to enable a better response in several geographical areas. Additional efforts are required to reach a target balance of USD 100 million, which would ensure a fully flexible and efficient SFERA, providing the means to cope with three simultaneous large-scale crises. With a balance of USD 37 million as of end-2025, this represents a gap of approximately USD 63 million, constraining the Fund's ability to respond to multiple concurrent large-scale crises.

10. Amid declining global humanitarian funding, FAO convened a consultation meeting with key SFERA resource partners in July 2025, followed by a broader partner event in September. These engagements provided a strategic platform to review SFERA's performance, demonstrate its catalytic role in enabling rapid and anticipatory responses, and identify opportunities to broaden and diversify its resource base. In parallel, FAO is pursuing complementary outreach and engagement efforts to further strengthen the visibility, positioning and long-term sustainability of SFERA.

IV. Use of SFERA funds

11. Under the working capital component, USD 655.7 million was advanced to projects after resource partners' commitment, but before receiving the cash contributions. Of this amount, USD 0.9 million remain outstanding, pending receipt of resource partner funds.

12. Of the USD 493.7 million contributed, USD 81.6 million was allocated under the revolving fund component. A total of USD 374.2 million was distributed under the programme component, of which USD 178 million was disbursed under the large-scale programme window (thematic and regional). SFERA's cash balance as of 31 December 2025 was USD 37 million. The use of funds is detailed in **Table 3**.

³ The United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Bank Group and the World Food Programme.

Table 3. Funding components

	Since inception (USD 000)	Jan–Dec 2025 (USD 000)
Advances		
Working component		
Total advances made during the period	655 722	9 503
Refunds on advances paid during the period	654 857	25 338
Outstanding advances	865	
Revolving fund component		
Emergency coordination unit setup and reinforcement	26 740	5 500
Needs assessment and programme development missions	26 002	7 000
Level 3 emergency preparedness and response	28 847	
Total revolving fund component	81 589	12 500
Programme component		
AIRC	140 914	8 908
AA	55 304	5 939
Large scale programme window		
Horn of Africa (Regional Programmes)	13 748	0
The Sahel (Regional Programmes)	3 552	0
Avian Influenza campaign	45 928	
Tsunami campaign	10 002	
Initiative on Soaring Food Crisis	1 168	
Locust campaign	51 105	0
Protracted crisis	15 110	4 000
Typhoon and Hurricane	15 598	0
Climate Crisis	16 108	3 881
Fall Armyworm	1 001	0
Covid-19	2 934	0
Centrality of protection and PSEA	1 757	319
Subtotal Large scale programme window	178 011	8 200
Subtotal programme components	374 229	23 047
Grand total applications	455 818	35 547
SFERA balance	36 974	

A. Working capital component

13. **Advances.** During the reporting period, 91 percent of SFERA advances were in support of projects funded by Germany, Switzerland and the World Bank Group as shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4. SFERA advances by resource partners

Resource partner	Advance (USD 000)	Refund (USD 000)
Belgium	300	300
European Commission	0	300
Germany	3 407	5 407
OCHA	0	120
Sweden	600	0
Switzerland	1 627	1 627
United States of America	0	14 015
World Bank Group	3 569	3 569
Total by resource partner	9 503	25 338

14. From 1 January to 31 December 2025, over 92 percent of all advances were allocated to major programmes in **Madagascar, Somalia, the Sudan** and various global projects, as detailed in **Table 5**. A short description of the main advances is provided in **Annex 2**.

Table 5. SFERA advances for country programmes

Country	Advance (USD 000)	Refund (USD 000)
Bangladesh	50	50
Democratic Republic of the Congo	50	3 350
Ethiopia	787	787
Global	1 049	1 999
Kenya	50	50
Madagascar	3 315	3 315
Mali	50	50
Mozambique	50	50
Philippines	0	120
Somalia	1 621	9 621
Sudan	1 627	5 392
Syrian Arab Republic	600	0
Regional Africa	0	300
Regional Asia and the Pacific	255	255
Total	9 503	25 338

B. Revolving fund component

15. Under the revolving fund component, SFERA operates three complementary windows. The **emergency coordination window** facilitates the rapid deployment of emergency expertise and temporary reinforcement of Country Office teams to scale up activities or support additional activities or bridge short-term funding gaps. The **needs assessment and programme development window** supports early-stage needs assessments and programme support activities at the onset of a crisis, enabling FAO and its partners to formulate rapid response programmes and inform longer-term resilience strategies. The **Level 3 emergency preparedness and response window** supports preparedness and early response actions in Level 3 (scale-up) emergencies.

16. Under the **emergency coordination window**, SFERA strengthened FAO's emergency response and resilience-building activities across multiple regions in 2025. Allocations enabled the rapid deployment of emergency coordinators, technical experts and operational support staff to Country Offices across multiple high-risk contexts. This reinforced core coordination and support functions – particularly Food Security Cluster leadership, cash and voucher assistance oversight, and information management – while also addressing short-term funding gaps. As a result, FAO was able to maintain continuity of emergency leadership, deepen interagency engagement, and support more timely, coherent and accountable food security responses.

17. In 2025, SFERA played a particularly critical role in sustaining FAO's emergency coordination capacities in **Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen**, all of which received significant allocations. In a context of rising humanitarian needs and sharply declining humanitarian funding, SFERA resources enabled the rapid deployment of surge personnel, safeguarded essential technical and operational functions, and reinforced Food Security Cluster leadership and preparedness. By bridging critical funding gaps, SFERA ensured that FAO's coordination and response capacities remained operational during periods of heightened vulnerability. **Table 6** presents the allocation of resources by country or region.

Table 6. Emergency coordination allocations

Country	Approved allocation (USD 000)
Afghanistan	360
Bangladesh	70
Burkina Faso	105
Central African Republic	12
Colombia	24
Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya	33
Democratic Republic of the Congo	319
Ethiopia	94
Haiti	11
Jordan	30
Mali	100
Mozambique	380
Myanmar	111
Niger	550
Nigeria	122
Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen	100
Philippines	8
Somalia	397
South Sudan	350
Sudan	83
Syrian Arab Republic	479
Ukraine	193
Yemen	300
Regional Africa	100
Regional Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, and Europe	100
Regional Near East and North Africa	50
Subregional Eastern Africa	85
Subregional Southern Africa	63
Subregional West Africa	340
Subregional West and Central Africa	40
Total	5 009

18. Under the **needs assessment and programme development window**, SFERA allocations in 2025 supported evidence-based assessments and programme design across multiple crisis-affected countries. Funds enabled timely food security and livelihood assessments, AA analyses, and crop and livestock impact studies, while sustaining FAO's technical leadership within the Food Security Cluster at country levels. These efforts informed Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans, strengthened emergency and resilience programming, and ensured timely adaptation of interventions to evolving humanitarian contexts.

19. In 2025, SFERA played a particularly critical role in sustaining FAO's needs assessment and evidence-generation capacities in **Chad, Mali and Yemen**, each of which received significant allocations to safeguard essential **Data in Emergencies (DIEM)** activities and assessment functions. These allocations enabled the uninterrupted delivery of field assessments, data collection and analysis, support to Food Security Cluster analytical capacities and targeted missions needed to underpin interagency planning processes. The continuity of activities ensured that humanitarian partners could rely on updated data to guide targeting, resource allocation and strategic planning. **Table 7** shows the allocation of resources by country or region.

Table 7. Needs assessment and programme development allocations

Country	Approved allocation (USD 000)
Afghanistan	240
Bangladesh	190
Burundi	50
Cameroon	40
Central African Republic	100
Chad	330
Colombia	49
Comoros	23
Democratic Republic of the Congo	192
Haiti	239
Honduras	65
Jordan	15
Kenya	7
Lebanon	164
Madagascar	50
Malawi	93
Mali	300
Mauritania	21
Mozambique	10
Myanmar	205
Niger	177
Nigeria	220
Pakistan	20
Somalia	93
South Sudan	109
Syrian Arab Republic	200
Sudan	277
Ukraine	239
West Bank and Gaza Strip	40
Yemen	432
Zimbabwe	64
Regional Africa (Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Nigeria)	185
Regional Asia and the Pacific (Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar)	100
Regional Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Chile and Uruguay)	60
Regional Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti and Venezuela [Bolivarian Republic of])	65
Regional Near East and North Africa (Lebanon, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Yemen)	185
Subregional Central Africa (Cameroon, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo)	100
Subregional Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan)	80
Subregional Southern Africa (Madagascar and Mozambique)	40
Subregional West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger)	100
Total	5 169

20. The **Level 3 emergency preparedness and response window** focuses on (i) preparedness measures and activities strengthening FAO's capacity to respond to large scale emergencies and (ii) Level 3 emergency response and corporate surge.

21. Under **preparedness measures**, FAO continued to develop its Internal Surge Mechanism (IST), introduced in 2024 to strengthen corporate readiness for Level 3 emergencies. Between late 2024 and early 2025, the IST launched 30 Calls for Expressions of Interest targeting generalist profiles and received 1 700 applications, including 1 088 internal candidates in the first quarter of 2025. Despite funding constraints, four deployments were supported to Afghanistan and Ukraine, mobilizing

one staff member, two international consultants and one national professional. These deployments helped sustain critical operations and generated lessons to refine orientation processes and deployment toolkits in preparation for future surge deployments in 2026.

22. Efforts to enhance Country Office capacities encompassed a variety of initiatives, including: (i) designing and delivering a new Rapid Response Preparedness simulation-based training in Afghanistan; (ii) designing and delivering a new global compliance and risk management training; (iii) conducting capacity needs assessments, either thematic or geographically focused; (iv) designing and facilitating an online programme on the role of agrifood systems in emergency settings; (v) conducting tailored training of trainers to enhance Country Office capacities in terms of delivery and readiness; and (vi) supporting the capacity development component of surge missions.

23. Moreover, building on the updated **PSEA Policy** issued in 2024, FAO further strengthened institutional and country-level PSEA capacities across its field operations in 2025. Key actions included delivering a multi-week, scenario-based technical training for 60 PSEA focal points in English and French, launching an induction programme for new focal points, and reaching approximately 4 200 personnel through awareness sessions. Technical support missions were conducted to high-risk contexts, including Chad, Somalia and the Sudan, while 30 Country Offices were supported to develop and implement PSEA Action Plans.

24. Funds allocated under the “**Corporate surge and Level 3 emergency response**” support FAO’s immediate response actions on a ‘no-regrets’ basis. During the reporting period, resources were approved for emergency response activities in **Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip**. A short description of the use of funds is provided in **Annex 3**.

Table 8. Corporate surge and Level 3 emergency response allotments

Corporate surge and Level 3 emergency response	USD (000)
Chad	500
Democratic Republic of the Congo	400
Haiti	500
Lebanon	250
Somalia	800
The Sudan	500
Syrian Arab Republic	500
West Bank and Gaza Strip	500
Total	3 950

C. Programme component

25. Under the programme component, USD 374.2 million has been allocated since inception, including USD 140.9 million under the AIRC window and USD 55.3 million under the AA window and USD 178 million to thematic or regional crises. Since 2023, resources have also been mobilized under the centrality of protection and PSEA window, which aims at strengthening the Organization’s capacities in terms of centrality of protection, accountability to affected people and PSEA.

AIRC window

26. As shown in **Table 9**, USD 9.9 million was allocated under the AIRC window. These contributions enabled FAO to respond quickly to large-scale crises through the immediate procurement and delivery of time-critical inputs. A short description of the main activities implemented through the SFERA AIRC funds is provided in **Annex 4**.

Table 9. Allocations under the AIRC window

Country	Intervention	USD (000)
Allocations from Belgium		4 470
Bangladesh	Strengthening agricultural livelihoods and resilience for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar	600
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Strengthening food security and nutrition through nutrition-sensitive agriculture in North Kivu Province	800
Iraq	Immediate response and livelihoods restoration of olive-based livelihoods in crisis-affected Harmota village in Koya District	120
Mali	Integrated livestock management to combat acute malnutrition among children and women	800
Myanmar	Emergency assistance to earthquake-affected smallholder farmers in Myanmar	350
Syrian Arab Republic	Enhanced food security and restoration of agricultural livelihood assets for drought-affected communities in the Syrian Arab Republic	800
West Bank and Gaza Strip	Emergency agricultural support to conflict-affected farmers and livestock-keeping families in the Gaza Strip to reactivate local food production and restore agriculture-based livelihoods	1 000
Allocations from Sweden		3 200
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Emergency support for conflict-affected farming households in North Kivu Province	800
Haiti	Strengthening food security in Haiti through emergency food production	800
Sudan	Providing emergency livestock interventions to vulnerable pastoralist communities in Darfur	800
Syrian Arab Republic	Emergency support for livestock protection and animal health for vulnerable smallholders	800
Allocations from Norway		1 942
Afghanistan	Emergency food security support for smallholder livestock farming communities in Jawzjan and Sar-e-Pul provinces, and priority agricultural interventions for the 2025 earthquake response	757
Mali	Support to anticipatory actions to strengthen the resilience of rural communities to flooding in Mali, ensuring early access to food and reducing vulnerability to climate shocks	285
Somalia	Emergency drought response through the provision of critical lifesaving support and livelihood protection	500
Sri Lanka	Emergency agricultural support to vulnerable flood-affected smallholder paddy farmers through a voucher scheme	400
Allocations from Malta		88
Sudan	Empowering women's fishery associations in Sawakin to strengthen food security and livelihoods	88
Allocations from Louis Dreyfus Foundation		234
Myanmar	Emergency agricultural support for earthquake-affected communities in Myanmar	234
Grand total		9 934

AA window

27. The AA window plays an instrumental role in supporting FAO's global efforts in scaling up AA approaches to prevent food crises. FAO's AA approach aims to protect agricultural assets and livelihoods from the impact of hazards to prevent the adoption of negative coping strategies. The SFERA AA window enables Country Offices to access pre-allocated financing necessary for the timely implementation of AA interventions. It releases funds upon early warning signals of an impending disaster, also called triggers. The trigger mechanisms are adapted to the context and

priority hazards. They are based on quantitative thresholds and corroborated with qualitative information and expert judgement.

28. As shown in **Table 10**, USD 7 million were allocated under the AA window. A short description of the main activities implemented through the SFERA AA funds is provided in **Annex 5**.

Table 10. Allocations under the AA window

Country	Intervention	USD (000)
Allocations from Belgium		1 500
Ethiopia	Anticipatory actions to mitigate the impacts of drought on vulnerable communities in Oromia and Soma	500
Kenya	Safeguarding livelihoods and increasing immediate food access for vulnerable rural households affected by forecasted drought through anticipatory action	500
Mozambique	Anticipatory support to vulnerable farmers affected by drought in Gaza Province	500
Allocation from Germany		4 297
Ethiopia	Emergency cash assistance to mitigate the impacts of anticipated drought on vulnerable communities in Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia	1 000
Somalia	Enhancing drought preparedness and mitigation through anticipatory action for vulnerable communities in Bay, Bakool and Galgaduud regions of Somalia	2 476
Somalia	Anticipating the impacts of La Niña-induced hazards to protect agricultural livelihoods and food security of vulnerable rural populations	821
Allocations from Sweden		1 257
Ethiopia	Mitigating the negative impacts of anticipated drought on vulnerable pastoral communities in Oromia	1 257
Grand total		7 054

Centrality of protection and PSEA window

29. As shown in **Table 11**, USD 318 639 was allocated to strengthen FAO Country Office capacities in protection and PSEA. A short description of the main activities implemented through this window is provided in **Annex 6**.

Table 11. Allocations under the Centrality of Protection and PSEA window

Country	Intervention	USD (000)
Allocations from Norway		319
Global	Promoting and operationalizing the centrality of protection and accountability to affected populations in FAOs emergency and resilience programmes	319
Grand total		319

Protracted crisis

30. In response to extraordinary crisis contexts, two allotments were made to support country programmes in Haiti and the Gaza Strip as both continued to face protracted food security challenges and underfunded humanitarian responses. As shown in **Table 12**, USD 4 million was allocated in 2025. A short description of the main activities implemented in both contexts is provided in **Annex 7**.

Table 12. Allocation under protracted crisis

Country	Intervention	USD (000)
Haiti	Boosting agricultural production for improved food security in Haiti	2 000
Gaza	Emergency agricultural support to conflict-affected farmers and livestock holder families in the Gaza Strip to reactivate local food production and restore agriculture-based livelihoods	2 000
Grand total		4 000

Climate crisis

31. Recognizing the immediate threats posed by climate change to agrifood systems, food security and livelihoods, SFERA is funding climate-resilience interventions to support urgent response and preparedness efforts. With funding from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, FAO aimed to strengthen adaptive capacities, safeguard livelihoods and enhance the resilience of agrifood systems to mitigate the impacts of increasing environmental risks. As shown in **Table 13**, USD 3.9 million was allocated for this purpose. A short description of the main activities implemented is provided in **Annex 8**.

Table 13. Allocation under Climate Crisis (including El Niño and La Niña)

Country	Intervention	USD (000)
Global	Enhanced data and analytics for improved decision-making in support of agricultural households in fragile food crisis and high-risk countries	1 035
Global	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office–FAO partnership for scaling up evidence-based climate action in crisis settings	330
Myanmar	Emergency assistance to earthquake-affected smallholder farmers in flood and drought prone areas of Myanmar	393
Niger	Improving food security and resilience of communities in Diffa and Maradi regions of Niger	412
Somalia	Enhancing drought preparedness and mitigation through anticipatory action for vulnerable communities in Gaalkacyo district of Mudug region	676
South Sudan	South Sudan climate resilient agricultural livelihoods	1 035
Total		3 881

V. Conclusions

32. Over the past year, the number and size of humanitarian crises have increased, with needs shifting rapidly and available resources becoming increasingly insufficient to meet all demands. Delays in responding to crises result in prolonged human suffering, and funding through fully earmarked contributions does not allow for agile and fast adaptation to evolving needs, reducing cost-effectiveness and efficiency in responding to humanitarian crises. The impact of delays in agriculture is long-lasting for affected populations and costly for the humanitarian community.

33. SFERA continues to provide FAO with a tool to improve timeliness, increase predictability, and catalyse its response at the country level, thereby enhancing support to Members. Contributing to SFERA, including through semi and unearmarked allocations, enables FAO to provide rapid, high-impact emergency assistance to the most vulnerable populations affected by various shocks, including protracted crises, natural disasters and food chain crises. By enabling early and time-critical agricultural interventions, SFERA reduces the need for repeated humanitarian assistance and supports more cost-effective responses.

34. SFERA interventions identify and integrate the different needs and strengths of women, men, boys and girls. Specific attention is given to supporting female-headed households in emergency response, disseminating technologies and practices that prevent and mitigate disaster impact, reducing women's work burden, promoting women's access to information and training, and increasing women's access to productive resources and assets.

35. In 2025, amid record levels of pressure on global humanitarian financing, SFERA proved indispensable to sustaining FAO's emergency and resilience operations. Increasing reliance on earmarked and delayed funding is constraining timely and cost-effective responses, reinforcing the need for flexible instruments such as SFERA. As earmarked funding became increasingly constrained and contribution timelines less predictable, SFERA provided the flexibility and predictability required to maintain country-level capacities, safeguard timely delivery and preserve preparedness and anticipatory response functions. In particular, the revolving fund component enabled FAO to sustain critical assessments, coordination leadership, data systems and surge support, preventing the erosion of core emergency capacities and ensuring operational continuity in an exceptionally constrained funding environment.

36. A comprehensive independent evaluation of SFERA was initiated in last quarter of 2025, with results expected in June 2026. Conducted in close consultation with key stakeholders, the evaluation will reinforce accountability to Members and resource partners, generate robust evidence on performance and catalytic value, and provide forward-looking recommendations to strengthen governance, financial sustainability, learning and SFERA's overall effectiveness and readiness.

Annex 1 – SFERA Receipts, Advances and Application – Summary Table

1. From its inception in 2004 through 31 December 2025, SFERA has received USD 493.7 million. Under its working capital component, USD 655.7 million has been advanced to fund immediate emergency projects, of which USD 9.5 million was advanced over the reporting period. Outstanding advances as of 31 December 2025 amounted to USD 0.9 million. Under the revolving fund USD 52.7 million was used to set up or reinforce Country Office emergency response capacities and support needs assessments and programme formulation and USD 28.8 million was allocated to the Level 3 (scale up) emergency preparedness and response window. Under the programme component, USD 141 million was disbursed under the AIRC window; USD 55.3 million under the AA window; and USD 178 million was allocated to thematic or regional programmes.

2. SFERA's cash balance as of 31 December 2025 was USD 37 million.

Contributors	Since inception USD (000)	Jan–Dec 2025 (USD 000)
Receipts	493 659	30 135
• Members	363 110	20 058
• Others	130 549	10 077
Working Capital Component – outstanding advances	865	
• Advances	655 722	9 503
• Refunds	654 857	25 338
Revolving Component	81 589	12 500
• Emergency coordination and response capacity window	26 740	5 500
• Needs assessment and programme development window	26 002	7 000
• Level 3 (scale up) emergency preparedness and response window	28 847	0
Programme Component	374 229	23 047
• AIRC	140 914	8 908
• AA	55 304	5 939
• Thematic and regional programme	178 011	4 200
SFERA balance	36 974	

Annex 2 – Highlights of SFERA advances for country programmes in 2025

Country	Summary of the use of SFERA advances
Madagascar	In Madagascar, FAO responded to an imminent locust threat with severe food security implications. Following the signing of a contribution agreement with the World Bank Group, FAO initiated time-critical procurement and field operations, including the airfreight of pesticides and mobilization of aerial control assets ahead of peak infestation. By safeguarding narrow response windows, FAO ensured continuity of surveillance and control operations, protecting crops, rangelands and rural livelihoods at a decisive moment.
Somalia	Upon activation of AA triggers and a confirmation of funding from the Government of Germany, FAO was able to fast-track the release of unconditional cash assistance to vulnerable households in drought-affected areas of Bay, Bakool and Galgaduud. Timely disbursement of cash enabled targeted households to pre-position essential supplies within a critical window.
Sudan	In Sudan, amid a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian context, FAO seized a narrow agricultural window following the signing of a contribution agreement with the Government of Switzerland. The advance enabled immediate procurement of seeds, veterinary inputs and cash assistance ahead of the 2025 rainy season. Through accelerating time-critical interventions, SFERA enabled FAO to prevent missed planting and vaccination windows.

Annex 3 – Corporate surge and Level 3 emergency response 2025 allocations

Country	Summary of the support
Chad	Ongoing areas of support to FAO's response in Chad include the recruitment of field-based personnel, strengthening of operations and upgrading of logistics and supply chain capacities in field offices. These measures are expected to enhance operational readiness and facilitate scaled emergency and resilience interventions.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Amid declining funding in an increasingly complex context, the support enabled FAO to sustain essential personnel, ensure the rapid deployment of technical experts, and develop a three-year Emergency and Resilience Plan. Moreover, FAO enhanced emergency agricultural interventions in eastern provinces, notably Ituri and North Kivu.
Haiti	Operational capacity in Haiti was strengthened through reinforced logistics, procurement and operations functions, alongside measures to ensure business continuity, including the full functionality of the Cap-Haïtien sub-office. Complementary technical deployments from headquarters and regional offices, including monitoring, evaluation and learning, and AA specialists, enhanced readiness and corporate support during a period of acute humanitarian needs and funding shortages.
Lebanon	In Lebanon, surge and analytical capacity were reinforced. Expanded field coverage and strengthened data collection and coordination functions enhanced the ability to capture the impact of the conflict on agricultural livelihoods. This strengthened sector leadership, improved planning and increased readiness to scale up assistance in a constrained operating environment.
Somalia	The Somalia Water and Land Information Management unit and the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit were supported to sustain strategic water and climate monitoring, groundwater and river flow tracking and early warning data platforms, while maintaining technical and market monitoring functions.
Sudan	In Sudan, operational and technical capacity was enhanced to enable scaled delivery during the main seasonal campaigns through strengthened operations, logistics, programme management, cash-based assistance and early warning functions. Moreover, the establishment of the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit and the strengthening of monitoring, evaluation and learning systems improved evidence-based planning and accountability.
Syrian Arab Republic	In the Syrian Arab Republic, FAO reinforced surge and field capacity, sustaining Food Security Sector leadership amid a rapidly evolving operational environment. Through targeted financial support and deployment of technical expertise, FAO strengthened coordination, advanced integrated emergency response planning and enhanced operational readiness for agricultural and food security interventions.
West Bank and Gaza Strip	In the Gaza Strip, FAO strengthened its operational capacity by initiating Letters of Agreement with implementing partners on the ground for beneficiary verification, logistics and distribution of emergency agricultural inputs. Concurrently, FAO initiated procurement of time-critical supplies and equipment, including materials for veterinary kits, smartphones to support beneficiary registration and cash delivery, and freight services for animal feed.

Annex 4 – AIRC 2025 Allocations

Country	Summary of the intervention
Afghanistan	In response to a prolonged drought and the impacts of the August 2025 earthquake, FAO delivered livestock feed, mineral blocks and veterinary services to vulnerable households in Sar-e-Pul and Jawzjan, while also supporting other priority emergency interventions in earthquake-affected areas.
Bangladesh	To contribute to addressing acute food insecurity among Rohingya communities in Cox's Bazar, FAO supported female-headed households, through the distribution of vegetable seeds, targeted aquaculture inputs and training on improved production practices.
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Following the escalation of hostilities in Goma and widespread displacement during the lean season, FAO provided emergency agricultural support to affected communities. Assistance included the distribution of fast-maturing and nutritious crop seeds, tools and poultry inputs, complemented by unconditional cash assistance and training on nutrition and sustainable farming practices, enabling targeted households, particularly those with young children and pregnant and lactating women, to restore food production and improve dietary outcomes.
Gaza Strip	FAO scaled up conditional cash assistance complemented by targeted in-kind inputs, enabling targeted farming households to procure essential inputs, resume planting and protect surviving livestock. The assistance enabled limited restoration of local food availability and contributed to preventing further deterioration of food security.
Haiti	In Haiti, where insecurity, displacement and recurrent climate shocks have undermined food production, FAO provided emergency food production support to vulnerable households through the delivery of home-gardening kits alongside cash assistance.
Iraq	Recurrent drought, water scarcity and wildfires have threatened olive-based livelihoods in the Kurdistan Region. In response, FAO supported affected communities by replanting drought-tolerant olive saplings, promoting climate-smart agricultural practices and strengthening access to scarce water resources.
Mali	FAO provided emergency crop and livestock support to flood-affected households in Gao and Tombouctou. Assistance included flood-tolerant, short-cycle rice seeds, storage equipment, livestock vaccination, supplementary feed and support to local animal health services, complemented by training on agrometeorological planning, improved husbandry and hygiene practices, as well as community radio outreach and risk awareness activities.
Myanmar	Following the March 2025 earthquake that disrupted agricultural livelihoods in Mandalay Region, FAO delivered time-critical support to affected farming households in Kyaukse and Pyawbwe. Assistance included crop seeds, notably green gram and chickpea, fertilizer and training on good agricultural practices, enabling households to resume cultivation ahead of the monsoon season.
Somalia	In Somalia, where recurrent drought and flooding have disrupted rural livelihoods, FAO provided agropastoral communities in Dhuusamarreeb, Galkaacyo and Galdogob with unconditional cash assistance and livestock treatment services.
Sri Lanka	Following Cyclone Ditwah and widespread flooding during the Maha 2025/26 season, FAO supported flood-affected smallholder paddy farming households through a commodity voucher scheme. Farmers redeemed vouchers for fertilizer, seeds and other essential inputs within a narrow cultivation window, complemented by technical guidance on efficient input use.
Sudan	In the Sudan, where conflict, economic disruption and the collapse of veterinary services have undermined livestock- and fisheries-based livelihoods, FAO delivered integrated emergency support to affected communities in various locations. In North and South Darfur, agropastoral households received vaccines, veterinary supplies, cash assistance and technical training to protect livestock assets and restore disease surveillance capacity. Moreover, in the Red Sea State, women fish processors in Sawakin were supported with equipment, protective gear and technical training to sustain.
Syrian Arab Republic	FAO supported drought-affected livestock-keeping households through the delivery of animal feed and veterinary services, alongside national vaccination campaigns against transboundary animal diseases, including lumpy skin disease and foot-and-mouth disease. The interventions were complemented by awareness-raising for herders to strengthen disease prevention and safeguard livestock-based livelihoods.

Annex 5 – AA window 2025 Allocations

Country	Summary of the actions
Ethiopia	In 2025, AA was activated in Ethiopia after drought triggers set by the Ethiopia Meteorological Institute were reached for both the March–May and October–December rainy seasons, indicating delayed onset and early cessation in southern and southeastern areas. In line with the national drought framework, FAO delivered forecast-based cash assistance and implemented livestock-focused interventions, including vaccination, supplementary feed and preventive animal health services. These measures contributed to safeguarding breeding stock, sustaining milk production and protecting household nutrition and income, while disseminating early warning information to strengthen preparedness.
Somalia	In 2025, AA was activated in Somalia following early warning triggers issued by FAO's Somalia Water and Land Information Management and the Somali Disaster Management Agency, indicating a high probability of drought during the March–May and October–December rainy seasons, with spillover effects into the January–March 2026 Jilaal. FAO delivered forecast-based assistance in Bay, Bakool, Galgaduud and Mudug regions, providing unconditional cash transfers, livestock treatment services, water bladders and early warning advisories to safeguard livelihoods and reduce negative coping strategies ahead of peak impacts.
Kenya	During the last quarter of 2025, the Kenya Meteorological Department forecast drier-than-average conditions during the October–December short rains, particularly in eastern and parts of central Kenya. Combined with severe vegetation stress, with greenness below 30 percent of the historical average, this signalled extreme drought and poor pasture availability. FAO activated AA in Samburu, Isiolo, Garissa and Tana River counties, supporting affected households with unconditional cash transfers and animal health services in December 2025, ahead of peak impacts on livestock-based livelihoods.
Mozambique	Over the second quarter of 2025, monitoring of meteorological forecasts, reservoir and river levels, crop water indices and food security indicators by the Technical Working Group on Early Warning and AA signalled drought risk in central-southern Mozambique. In September 2025, triggers were reached for Mabalane, Massangena and Mapai districts in Gaza province, with drought forecast for January–March 2026. FAO implemented AA supporting vulnerable rain-fed farming and livestock-keeping households through e-vouchers for drought-tolerant seeds and tools, small water infrastructure, livestock management training and early warning dissemination to safeguard food security and livelihoods.

Annex 6 – 2025 Allocations under the centrality of protection and PSEA window

1. In 2025, FAO continued to institutionalize and advance the centrality of protection and accountability to affected people across emergency and resilience programmes. Building on a 2024 capacity review, FAO developed internal guidance to further integrate protection throughout the project cycle. FAO also strengthened capacities in high-risk contexts, including the Syrian Arab Republic and Sudan, through tailored training, knowledge-exchange workshops and engagement in inter-agency protection platforms, enabling Country Offices to embed protection risks in monitoring frameworks and enhance accountability.

Annex 7 – 2025 Allocations under protracted crisis

Country	Summary of the intervention
Gaza Strip	In the Gaza Strip, FAO is supporting farming and livestock-keeping households to enable them to reactivate food production and restore their livelihoods. The assistance combines in-kind and conditional cash with tailored technical support to rebuild productive capacities, protect remaining assets and increase availability of nutritious food in local markets.
Haiti	FAO is boosting local agricultural production and livelihoods in Haiti by supporting vulnerable farming, fishing and agroprocessing households. Assistance packages include the provision of agricultural input kits, support to the cassava value chain through equipment and technical assistance, inputs and training for fishers, and grants to small-scale agrifood producers.

Annex 8 – Allocations under climate crisis (including El Niño and La Niña) in 2025

Country	Summary of the interventions
Global	Amid intensifying climate shocks interacting with conflict and economic stress, FAO is reinforcing DIEM, a well-established system critical to evidence-based programming. DIEM strengthens agricultural monitoring, hazard impact assessments and geospatial risk analysis, including flood exposure mapping and multi-shock analytics. Furthermore, in 2025, FAO continued to strengthen climate resilience in various fragile contexts by combining anticipatory and emergency support with climate-informed analysis and programme design. Through risk monitoring and evidence generation, interventions were tailored to protect agrifood systems from droughts, floods and other climate shocks. Assistance included climate-smart inputs, cash support, livestock protection and early warning measures.
Myanmar	Earthquake- and flood-affected farming households received income support and tailored packages of groundnut seeds and fertilizer ahead of seasonal planting, complemented by awareness-raising on climate-resilient practices and water management.
Niger	FAO supported drought-affected households through crop production packages, livestock feed and firebreak establishment, reinforcing preparedness and sustaining production in highly climate-vulnerable areas of Niger.
Somalia	In Somalia, AA was activated following early warning triggers indicating extreme drought in Mudug region. FAO delivered conditional and unconditional cash assistance and livestock treatment services, protecting pastoral livelihoods and mitigating the impact of severe rainfall deficits.
South Sudan	FAO is improving access to flood- and drought-tolerant seeds, climate-smart production practices and livestock vaccination, while supporting post-harvest loss reduction and climate-informed early warning systems. FAO is also promoting sustainable natural resource management through tree nurseries and fuel-efficient stoves.