

CERFAM'S BULLETIN

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**STRENGTHENING
RESILIENCE TO
ACHIEVE ZERO
HUNGER IN AFRICA**



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CERFAM
CENTRE D'EXCELLENCE REGIONAL
CONTRE LA FAIM ET LA MALNUTRITION



World Food
Programme

EDITORIAL



In Africa, the food and agriculture sectors are among the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of disasters and crises.

Drought, floods, epidemics and conflicts undermine countries efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and to achieve sustainable development. Over the past ten years, natural disasters have caused damage estimated at nearly US\$1.3 billion and affected 2.7 billion people worldwide¹. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report – 2021 – reveals that countries affected by a combination of multiple factors as well as countries affected by conflict have some of the highest percentages of populations unable to access healthy and healthy food, therefore in a situation of moderate or severe food insecurity: nearly 928 million people in a situation of severe food insecurity in 2020, 148 million more than in 2019².

In Africa, the food and agriculture sectors are among the most vulnerable to the negative repercussions of disasters and crises, to which has been added, since February 27, 2020, the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19).

This pandemic and the measures implemented to slow its spread are affecting and disrupting food systems including the production, storage, marketing, processing and distribution of agricultural and food products.

Faced with these crises, forging partnerships between governments, international organizations, private sector, and communities, and acting in a more coordinated manner are essential to urgently save human lives, the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people and build the resilience of populations, mainly small farmers, entrepreneurs, and their families whose livelihoods depend on rain-fed agriculture and who are most threatened by climate change. This eighth bulletin presents some initiatives aimed at building resilience on the continent.

Strengthening resilience is one of the priorities of the World Food Programme (WFP), which has expanded its humanitarian assistance mission to include assistance to communities and governments to strengthen their resilience to shocks and reduce their vulnerability to future stresses. For WFP and its partners in the Sahel region, making populations resilient in the face of various disasters and crises is an essential condition for promoting sustainable development. WFP has thus launched programmes for a change in the operationalization of the resilience approach (page 18), and has also approached universities, by creating a Network of Sahel Universities for Resilience (REUNIR). This Network serves as a common reflection platform on the resilience of populations, facing many challenges including high levels of food insecurity, limited and unequal access to basic services, poorly integrated markets, recurrent climate shocks and increased insecurity.

The African Union (AU) is also working to strengthen community resilience, through its Development Agency and New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), through initiatives implemented in the region to accelerate local African solutions that improve the resilience of health systems to pandemics and other shocks. On page 12 of this bulletin, you will learn about the key initiatives prioritized by the AU to support the recovery from COVID-19 and create the necessary structures to mitigate the impact of future pandemics, and firmly put the continent back on the development path towards Agenda 2063.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, one of the most fertile countries on the planet, but exposed to climate risks and conflicts, people are facing the world's largest food crisis. Since 2016, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP and their government partners and other organizations have implemented an integrated project aimed at strengthening the resilience of communities in the province of Tanganyika, to ease tensions between communities and strengthen social cohesion and stability (page 10).

Community resilience is one of the areas of intervention of the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM). In collaboration with the Alliance Française de formation et de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation, l'environnement et la santé mondiale (Agreenium), CERFAM organized a webinar on October 5, 2021, which brought together high-level experts from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the NGO Action Against Hunger, WFP, and the Niger Farmer Platform. On page 8, you will read the challenges noted by the panelists, challenges faced by African farmers including small producers, and good practices and opportunities that can help improve the lives of vulnerable rural populations.

Building resilience requires an in-depth analysis of the capacities of communities to bounce back from a disaster, conflict, or shock, to address inherent vulnerabilities and enable these communities to mitigate risks in the future. Build resilience to achieve the zero-hunger goal and improve the situation of communities is possible in Africa, through community participation, strategic and operational partnerships, as well as good coordination.

Enjoy your reading.

1 <https://www.fao.org/resilience/contexte/fr/>

2 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb5409fr/cb5409fr.pdf>

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Article written by Resilience and Livelihoods Unit, Regional Bureau for Western Africa, Dakar

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African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) initiatives to accelerate local African solutions that improve health systems resilience to pandemics and other shocks

Article written by, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

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+ Interview with Mr. Younoussa MBALLO / **Technical Consultant at the Ministry of Agriculture and of Rural Equipment, and National Coordinator for PROVALE (Projet de Valorisation des Eaux pour le Développement des Chaînes de Valeur)**

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Sahel universities for building resilience in West Africa



ABOUT CERFAM

The Regional Centre against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) is the result of a strategic partnership agreement between the government of Côte d'Ivoire and the World Food Program (WFP) to support African countries in elimination of hunger and malnutrition. The Regional Centre against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) is the result of a strategic partnership agreement between the government of Côte d'Ivoire and the World Food Program (WFP) to support African countries in elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

CERFAM is a platform for exchange, partnership, and cooperation, which allows countries to have access to the best available expertise to support them in their efforts to progress towards the implementation of the SDGs, in particular SDG 2.

CERFAM facilitates and mobilizes skills, promotes and implementation of good practices and sustainable solutions in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Its mission is carried out through innovative approaches and the networking of national, regional and international actors in order to produce tangible and lasting results.

Based on its 4 pillars of research, advocacy and communication, partnerships and technical assistance, CERFAM's interventions take advantage of South-South Cooperation and capacity building to support national and regional priorities in the area of food security and nutrition.

Priority areas of action for CERFAM:

- + Support to governments, institutions and partners in the formulation, planning, implementation and monitoring of food and nutrition security policies and interventions.
- + Support for national school feeding programs based on local purchases in support of social safety nets and the development of the local economy.
- + Strengthen the resilience of individuals, communities and local systems to cope with cyclical and recurring shocks.
- + Prioritization of multisectoral and innovative nutrition strategies that are part of a sustainable food system.
- + Optimization of the food value chain and support for the development of efficient and sustainable supply systems to benefit the incomes of small producers.



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01 BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR ZERO HUNGER IN AFRICA: INTRODUCTION TO WFP'S SCALING UP RESILIENCE IN THE SAHEL PROGRAMME

The Sahelian countries commonly known as the G5 Sahel countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger – form a vast geographic belt of territories, marked by persistently high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, limited and unequal access to basic services, poorly integrated markets, rising insecurity, and recurrent shocks. Severe weather fluctuations compound on the increasingly scarcer availability of key livelihood resources and disrupt the delicate balance between farmers and herders sharing water and grazing lands.

In this context, a healthy natural environment is the very foundation for many people's food security and livelihoods, and thus the building block for their resilience to shocks and long-term stressors. But when lands are stripped of their vegetative cover and fertile topsoil, they become unable to withstand rains, winds and droughts. Such land degradation sets in motion a vicious cycle that makes lands extremely fragile and unable to withstand even normal climatic patterns. In response to these multifaceted challenges, since 2018, WFP, in collaboration with governments and partners, has been scaling up resilience interventions in the Sahel region, supporting vulnerable communities with an innovative integrated package of activities is implemented across the region, combining assets creation, school feeding, nutrition interventions, access to markets and capacity strengthening.

From September 2020 to February 2021, more than 1.9 million people have benefitted from WFP's integrated resilience activities across the

region. 380,000 children at school benefitted from nutritious school meals, 555,000 children and women from malnutrition treatment and prevention support and 13,000 people were trained, including smallholder farmers, cooperating partners, government staff and community committees.



+1,9 MILLION PEOPLE

beneficiating from WFP's
resilience activities in the
region.

The Sahel is far from being defeated and harbours enormous potential for positive transformation. Since the beginning of the scale-up in 2018, WFP together with the communities rehabilitated nearly 109,000 hectares of degraded land for pasture and croplands development, created more than 1,850 hectares of horticulture gardens to produce fresh vegetables and fruits, built 480 wells, 1,115 ponds and 180 boreholes to enhance access to water for productive purposes and income generation, particularly for women groups.

Based on a participatory planning approach at the terroir level, WFP and its cooperating partners have been accompanying communities in rehabilitating lands and ecosystems through



+109 000 HECTARES OF DEGRADED LAND

rehabilitated by WFP
and communities for the
development of pastures
and cultivated lands

asset creation at community and household level. Increased productivity then enables populations to fully feed their families and often also to augment their incomes through market sales of transformed produce, making them more resilient to seasonal stressors and shocks that may come their way in the future. In addition to these rehabilitation activities, the integrated resilience package also includes the provision of nutritious school meals, preferably locally produced, which have a positive impact on students' ability to concentrate and succeed, as well as on attendance rates, especially for girls. Moreover, nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions reduce malnutrition and promote availability and consumption of nutritious foods.

Restoring landscapes and people coming together throughout the process also has the potential to ease conflict between those who want to graze livestock and those who want to grow food. Resilience building activities can serve as a buffer to instability by strengthening solidarity between people, creating social safety nets, keeping lands productive and offering economic opportunities. When parched landscapes are worked to yield grass or crops, children are at school, youth find jobs without embarking on unsafe migration, women are able to find water and irrigate vegetable gardens, and whole communities come together, addressing land degradation can go much further than greening landscapes and truly change lives.

*Article written by Resilience and Livelihoods Unit,
Regional Bureau for Western in Africa, Dakar*



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02 PROMOTING A BETTER INTEGRATED APPROACH TO REINFORCE RESILIENCE IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

People around the world are increasingly exposed to natural disasters and to health, social, economic, and political crises. In West and Central Africa, the recurrence and intensity of the shocks and stresses are affecting the food security and nutritional status of populations, particularly rural populations, and vulnerable groups, and is disrupting food systems. Food systems, particularly agricultural value chains, are disrupted by climate change, natural disasters, armed conflicts, as well as by socio-political upheavals.

A successful partnership to promote resilience in the region

As part of its mission to assist African countries and partners towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal # 2, CERFAM is supporting government efforts to identify the gaps as well as the opportunities aimed at strengthening resilience initiatives that will transform the country's food systems.

In order to adopt a systemic approach and to address the structural and sustainable challenges of resilience in West and Central Africa, CERFAM collaborated with the Economic and Political Development (EPD) workshop at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) of Columbia University in the United States to conduct a study with the goals of coming up with an integrated resilience strategy for the region's governments and examining the root causes for the need of an integrated resilience program.

To do this, CERFAM and SIPA developed an analytical framework to examine best resilience practices and to create a tool that governments and their partners can use at both national and regional levels. This framework facilitates the analysis of conditions that compete to create a favorable environment for programming resilience and to learn lessons from previous resilience programs in these regions.

Promising resilience programs and initiatives in West and Central Africa

The analytical framework has brought to light several relevant initiatives, notably:

- + Resilience initiatives that strengthen information systems, such as the Cadre Harmonisé, a regional tool developed to prevent food crises by providing early warning signals to quickly identify the affected populations and to propose appropriate measures to improve their food and nutritional security.
- + The USAID program "Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis", a series of directives on how to best target vulnerable communities to integrate, sequence and layer resilience activities, while emphasizing the importance of empowering women in areas where crises are recurrent.
- + The "WFP and OXFAM R4 Rural Resilience Initiative", currently underway in six African countries, which aims at helping communities strengthen their resilience in the face of climate variability and shocks and increase their food security and income in the face of increasing climate risks.

The ineffectiveness of resilience initiatives on the ground

According to the results of the analytical framework, resilience initiatives are still limited, because of their partitioning and the lack of coordination mechanisms needed to ensure their sustainability and their capacity to address the underlying issues of development and long term resilience. For example, until recently, resilience programs were mostly focused on the capacity of communities to recover from shocks, which does not necessarily indicate that the communities are better equipped to deal with the next shock or stress.

How to move forward with resilience initiatives in West and Central Africa?

The analytical framework proposes three principles of resilience measures that key players can adopt to increase resilience at each stage of the agricultural value chain:

- + >> **Principle 1** : strengthening resilience leads to development, which means addressing the root causes of vulnerability, the uppermost consideration in the design of interventions;
- + >> **Principle 2** : resilience is the process and outcome of increasing capacities to mitigate, adapt and to recover from shocks;
- + >> **Principle 3** : resilience must be multisectoral and long term; one of the main factors in successful resilience programs is the adoption of a “participatory approach” which includes the target populations in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the program.



In West and Central Africa, the recurrence and intensity of shocks affect food security and the nutritional status of populations, especially rural populations, and vulnerable groups.

In order to operationalize this analytical framework in West and Central Africa, governments, multilateral organizations, local authorities, and civil society organizations, who are the main players, must work together to build resilience.



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03 PROMOTING ROBUST LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS AND RESILIENCE AMONG RURAL POPULATIONS IN AFRICA

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to re-assess and transform the way our food is produced and consumed. The combined impacts of this health, social and economic crisis point to the need for measures to establish sustainable world-wide systems of production, processing and consumption that contribute to the right to adequate nutrition for all.

A webinar to promote sustainable food systems and resilience of rural populations

On 5 October 2021, the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) and the Alliance Française de formation et de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation, l'environnement et la santé mondiale (Agreenium) held a webinar on the following theme: **Robust local food systems**

the participation rate of small producers in the food processing systems, (iv) to foster partnerships to advocate for the cause and increase investments to support the resilience of small-scale producers in Africa.

A committed panel of experts

The webinar allowed participants to benefit from the expertise and experience of Mr. Amath Pathé SENE, Côte d'Ivoire Country Director, Director of the Coastal countries Hub at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Mr. Adamou OUNTENI ISSAKA, Principal Advisor on Resilience, West Africa Regional Bureau, at the Dakar World Food Programme (WFP) office, Mr. Mamadou Diop, Regional Representative for West and Central Africa for Action Against Hunger, and Mr. BAGNA Djibo, Honorary President of the Niger Farmer Platform, who shared their thoughts on sustainable food

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_208

