## FAO + Sweden

A report on partnership



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Rome, 2018

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#### **Contents**

Foreword by FAO Director-General	iv
Foreword by Sida Director General	V
Acknowledgements	Vi
Abbreviations	Vii
Partnership at a glance	viii
Keeping our food safe and our planet healthy	3
Promoting equitable access to land	9
Ensuring sustainable use of natural resources	13
A strategic, more cost-effective response: FMM	21
Bridging development and humanitarian objectives	29
Flexible funds for rapid action: SFERA	38
List of projects funded by Sweden (ongoing over the 2016-2017 period)	44

### Foreword by FAO Director-General

For nearly 70 years, governments around the world have benefited from the close collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Sweden to improve the lives of people through targeted investments in food systems and agriculture. We have worked across the humanitarian and development spheres and together have saved lives, protected and restored livelihoods and food production, and ensured nutrition security for many among the world's most vulnerable.

Together, we have promoted inclusive growth by bolstering land tenure security for all, while preserving the environment, and we have set standards to protect consumers worldwide from an overuse of pesticides and antimicrobials in agriculture. Our joint work on decent rural jobs is paving the way for stronger communities and better rural futures for a new generation of producers, and it is making sure women have an equal stake in that future. Sweden's commitment to FAO's Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism in particular has ensured that rural communities can benefit from decent jobs and more inclusive value chains and that women can participate on equal grounds in rural labour markets and agribusiness.

Sweden's ongoing support to FAO's work in emergencies, meanwhile, has also allowed FAO to respond effectively to the unprecedented number of humanitarian crises that raged around the world in the last biennium, with a mix of crisis support and resilience-building activities. In particular, I would like to thank Sweden for its sustained trust, reflected in its unearmarked contribution to FAO's Special Fund for Emergency Rehabilitation in 2017. Last year marked the first time Sweden made this type of funding available, and it has been critical in enabling us to respond rapidly to emerging and growing needs in regions that experienced natural shocks and conflict.

I would also like to highlight Sweden's continuous support for gender equality, through initiatives such as the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, which FAO is implementing together with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UN Women and the World Food Programme.



Moreover, I am very pleased to say that with the renewal of the Framework Agreement in 2017, FAO and Sweden took an important step forward in their cooperation, with the objective of supporting the achievement of international development goals, including the SDGs, in developing countries. We stand alongside Sweden to bring greater innovation to the international development system.

José Graziano da Silva

### Foreword by Sida Director General

Due to conflicts, climate change and other factors, hunger is regrettably on the rise again. A long-term decline in the number of malnourished people has taken a turn for the worse. There needs to be a joint effort in order achieve a peaceful world without hunger and extreme poverty. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry have a key role to play in this context, not only as the source of food and food production, but as a vehicle for women's empowerment, poverty eradication, decent jobs and sustainable production. Furthermore, agriculture plays an essential role in our efforts to mitigate for and adapt to climate change. This also means that agriculture is at the core of the work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Sida considers FAO to be a key actor in tackling poverty, eradicating hunger and achieving a fair and sustainable global development and, as the United Nations' specialized agency for food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, FAO is also a key partner in the multilateral work on the SDGs and Agenda 2030.

Sweden has had a longstanding cooperation with FAO. The activities of FAO embody perspectives that Sweden considers important in development cooperation; the poverty perspective, the environment perspective and the climate perspective. FAO's humanitarian interventions and their bridging links to development initiatives continue to be highly relevant. FAO's dedication to working on gender issues is commendable and Sweden supports FAO in these efforts. Staying attentive and constantly seeking review on where improvements can be made, in the organisation as well as in implemented programs, is essential. Gender equality is achieved when women and men, girls and boys, have equal rights, life prospects and opportunities, and the power to shape their own lives and contribute to society. Other issues of importance to Sweden are environmental integration, good results-based management and active knowledge management with a continuous learning process between policy and practice. To facilitate our cooperation a new Framework Agreement was signed in 2017. Over the last years contributions to FAO through Sida have been around SEK 150 million (USD 15 million) in total per year.

Two significant parts of the collaboration between Sida and FAO have been the FAO Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM) and the emergency operations. Other important cooperation at global,



country and regional level, for instance the Support to Colombia's land restitution process and the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), are also well described in this report. We also appreciate the Joint Programme on Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE), where the three Rome based agencies together with UN WOMEN work together in a good One UN spirit in seven countries. Sweden has had a total of 364 junior professional officers (JPO) working for FAO at headquarters, or in countries, with the first sent out already in 1963. Some continue working at FAO after the JPO period.

With a growing world population – and for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals – agriculture, forestry and fisheries will continue to be of the greatest importance. The work of FAO is crucial in this regard, and Sida looks forward to a continued good cooperation between FAO and Sweden, to find sustainable solutions, and in the fight to eradicate poverty in the world.

#### Carin Jämtin

#### **Acknowledgements**

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The information presented is the result of contributions from across FAO, which involved numerous colleagues working at headquarters and in regional, country and liaison offices. The report would not have been possible without the valuable contributions and review provided by FAO Regional, Country and Liaison Offices, the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division (TCE), the Office for Corporate Communication (OCC), the Office of the Director General (ODG), and the FAO Technical Departments and Divisions. Particular appreciation goes to Vanja Bozic, Giulia Galbiati, Yuri Kumagai, Simone Pagliaroli, Anna Trolle-Lindgren and Caroline Von Gayl for their invaluable guidance, support and inputs.

#### **Abbreviations**

AIRC Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity

AMR Antimicrobial resistance

DRE Decent Rural Employment

**EU** European Union

**FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization

FARC Revolutionary Armed Force of Colombia

**FFF** Forest and Farm Facility

**FFPO** Forest and Farm Producer Organization

FLEGT Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

FMM Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism

ICA Integrated Country Approach

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

IPPC International Plant Protection Convention

ITPGRFA International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

IUU Illegal, unreported and unregulated

JPRWEE Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

MSB Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

NENA
Near East and Northern Africa
ODA
Offical Development Assistance
ONAB
National Timber Office of Benin
PSMA
Port State Measures Agreement

**REDD+** Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

**SDG** Sustainable Development Goal

**SEK** Swedish Krona

SFERA Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation

Sida Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SIDS Small Island Developing States

**UN** United Nations

VGGT Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

VNFU Vietnam National Farmers Union
VPA Voluntary Partnership Agreements

WFP World Food Programme
WHO World Health Organization
WSI Water Scarcity Initiative

## Partnership at a glance

Sweden is, by its own merits, a leader in the development landscape and a remarkable partner of FAO. The country is the largest donor in terms of official development assistance (ODA) in proportion to the size of its economy, and a firm supporter of multilateralism. Unsurprisingly, FAO's partnership with Sweden is an exceptional example of how we can efficiently work together to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national, regional and global levels.

From 2008 to 2017, Sweden was the 15th-largest resource partner for assessed and voluntary contributions, and the 12th largest resource partner for voluntary contributions. The country's funding has continued to increase, reaching a staggering SEK 207 million (USD 23 million)<sup>1</sup> in 2017. The general composition of Sweden's voluntary contributions in the period 2014–2017, shows that the six largest projects reached a cumulative budget of SEK 270 million (USD 30 million) and constituted 53 percent of total approvals. Such contributions were mainly directed to resilience initiatives, which attracted 70 percent of approvals in the four-year period, followed by initiatives related to the sustainability and productivity of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, attracting 22 percent of approvals, and by rural poverty initiatives, covering 8 percent of approvals.

FAO is extremely appreciative of Sweden's strategy and continued support to multilateral development partners, including UN agencies. FAO recognizes and embraces the country's core principles of less earmarked funding, coupled with longer-term support and increased coordination, since these are seen as essential for the rapid achievement of the SDGs. Sweden has been a leader in flexible funding through the Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM), which has proven to be a catalytic force for

new partnerships, expanding new areas of work, and designing bigger and more impactful projects. Through the FMM in particular, Sweden has boosted FAO's efforts towards gender equality and the empowerment of rural youth, and by extension, unleashed the catalytic effects such investments tend to have on larger development objectives. The mechanism has allowed FAO to leverage its capabilities at both country and global levels, and it is clear that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda requires this type of innovative financing mechanisms and bold partnerships, based on common goals, to create an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels.

Likewise, Sweden's investments have also provided significant support to FAO's normative work, including areas such as sustainable forest management, food security and nutrition, and the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Plant Protection Convention. Moreover, with Sweden's assistance, FAO has also improved its tenure and rightsbased approaches to land and fisheries, by supporting the mainstreaming and practical application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines. What is more, FAO is grateful that its resilience work has been backed up by Sweden's contributions as well, allowing for interventions in Chad, Colombia, Djibouti and Somalia, and supporting the Food Security Cluster.

Considering the underlying crosscutting areas mentioned above, FAO looks forward to getting further engaged with Swedish partners and using their collective ingenuity to bring about the noble goal of a Zero Hunger world by 2030.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Values in Swedish Krona (SEK) in this report are based on the exchange rate as of June 28, 2018 (USD 1 = SEK 9).

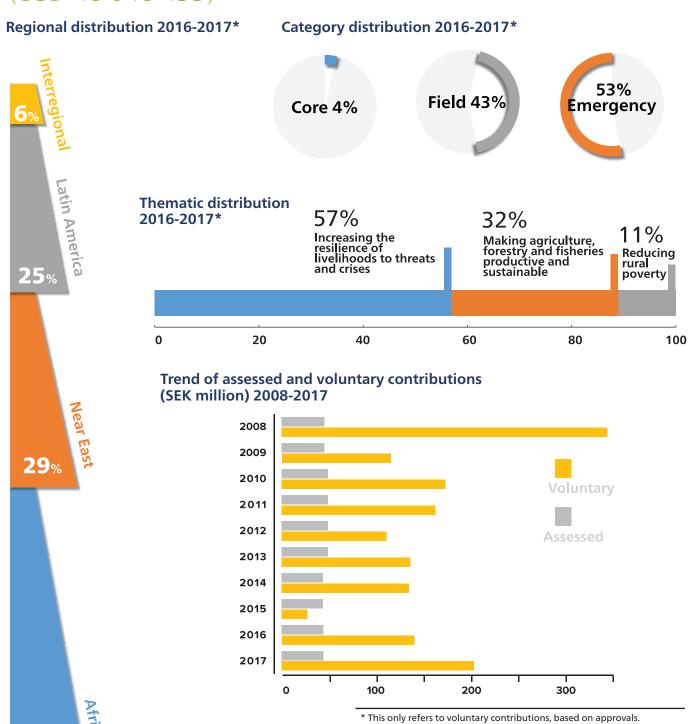
#### In figures

40%

Total contributions of Sweden to FAO (assessed and voluntary) 2016-2017

#### SEK 432 435 897

(USD 48 048 433)





## Keeping our food safe and our planet healthy

The world's food and agricultural systems are essential to the health and well-being of every woman, man, girl and boy on earth. Ensuring that everyone has access to the nutrients they need is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of human societies, but ensuring that food systems grow and develop in ways that can meet the needs of all people is a task that is best accomplished through well-developed cooperation that includes trade, innovation and investment, as well as shared rules for safety and fairness in all aspects of production, distribution and consumption.

Safeguarding the world's food and agriculture also means paying attention to the sustainability and climate footprint of all activities related to food and agriculture. FAO enables different forms of cooperation by providing data and analysis of emerging trends, facilitating the development of norms and standards to guide action by governments and their partners. The Organization also supports and sustains technically sophisticated platforms at global, regional and national levels for policy dialogue among governments, farmers, civil society, businesses and consumers.

## The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The IPPC aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests that affect plants and plant products. The convention, which is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, covers cultivated plants and natural flora alike.

Sweden backs the IPPC and throughout the years has made significant contributions to FAO in support of the Commission and its technical work to improve food security – more specifically, by preventing the loss of ecosystems and species diversity, and by facilitating the safe trade of plant products.

## The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The ITPGRFA, also known as the International Plant Treaty, facilitates the conservation, sustainable use and continued open exchange of food crops and their genetic materials between countries. Its aim is to ensure that farmers and researchers across the globe continue to have access to the world's most important

crops and can utilize the valuable genetic traits found therein to strengthen food production. This includes making production systems more resilient to a changing climate. Sweden contributes to the Treaty's core administrative budget and continues to support the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund, for which it made SEK 1.4 million (USD 150 000) available in the last biennium to support community-based projects. Since 2009, nearly a million people in developing countries, mostly smallholder farmers, have benefited from projects supported by the Fund. Women and men farmers and scientists, including young scientists, have been trained in conserving, managing and using plant genetic diversity and have benefited from new technologies that help them discover and breed crop traits important for food security and climate adaptation.

Beyond plant genetics, FAO remains a leading forum for countries to address the conservation of biodiversity for agriculture, including livestock. This includes hosting the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which provided the forum for the negotiation of the International Plant Treaty. The Commission's flagship reports on the state of both plant and livestock genetic diversity worldwide remain among the most comprehensive reference tools for policy-makers and practitioners in donor and developing countries alike.



#### The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)

The VGGT represent a historic breakthrough in the global effort to safeguard the legitimate rights of people to own, use and access land, forests and fisheries. Since 2012, many resource partners, including Sweden, have recognized these first-ever global tenure guidelines – which were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security – to protect the rights of millions of small-scale farmers worldwide, achieve food security for all and ensure development is sustainable.

Over the last three years, Sweden contributed to the project implementation of the VGGT in more than 70 countries, including the first VGGT awareness-raising workshop in Malawi. Such activities have increased understanding among civil society organizations of the guidelines, led to securing follow-up resources on land investment, and ensured that national platforms related to land tenure include smallholder farmers and their concerns.



#### The Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

Sweden has been an active supporter of the international PSMA, a treaty that prevents unscrupulous fishers from landing their ill-gotten fish, making it harder for such catches to enter national and international markets. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing robs the world's oceans of some 26 million tonnes of seafood every year about one-sixth of all the fish caught at sea - with staggering financial losses of up to USD 23 billion annually. It severely affects the livelihoods of fishers and exacerbates poverty and food insecurity. In addition, it undermines the accuracy of fish-stock assessments and thus directly harms efforts to make sure marine resources are used sustainably. It also has a detrimental effect on the environment, as harmful fishing practices are often used in IUU fishing and other non-target species, many of which are threatened. On a socioeconomic level, it threatens the stability of coastal communities that rely on legal trade. Compared to most monitoring, control and surveillance schemes, port state measures act as a highly effective and cost-efficient deterrent to IUU fishing activities. FAO brokered the agreement, which was the result of a multiyear negotiation process, with active participation from Sweden.

To ensure that small island developing states (SIDS) and developing coastal countries are able to fully implement and benefit from the PSMA. FAO has invested substantially in national, regional and interregional capacity-building initiatives, as well as in a global programme for capacity development related to the agreement. In 2017, Sweden committed SEK 52.2 million (USD 5.8 million) towards this programme, to assist 26 developing countries and SIDS in improving national policy and legislative frameworks, along with institutions and systems for monitoring, control and surveillance over five years. With the programme's support, countries are able to enhance their capacities to inspect vessels entering their ports and take more effective action against persons and entities engaged in IUU fishing. Moreover, Sweden's backing of the initiative supports the implementation of market access measures, such as catch documentation and traceability schemes and further development and implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.

#### **Codex Alimentarius**

Sweden is a strong proponent of the Codex, which plays an important role in ensuring the safety, quality and fairness of international food trade, and contributes to it on a voluntary basis. Sweden actively participates in the Codex Commission that sets international standards, guidelines and codes of practice. The Codex's broad scope, covering areas such as contaminants, nutrition, food hygiene, additives, antimicrobial resistance and biotechnology, makes it an essential part of achieving food security and zero hunger. Public concern about food safety, meanwhile, often places the Codex at the centre of global debates.

#### **Reducing pesticide risks**

In its support to the work of the Codex, Sweden is particularly involved in matters related to reducing the risks associated with pesticide use. Over the last decade, Sweden has been a foremost partner in FAO's work in this area, most notably by providing close to SEK 125.6 million (USD 14.4 million) for pesticide risk reduction across Southeast Asia. This contribution has supported farming communities and policy makers in Cambodia, China, Lao, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, along with regional activities in Asia-Pacific. It widely increased awareness and advocacy on sustainable pest management and the risks associated with pesticides, while also boosting countries' capacity to build stronger regulatory frameworks and bettermanaged chemicals. In these last two components, the Swedish Chemicals Agency (Kemi) carried out the implementation.

Sweden has also been a backer of the FAO-World Health Organization (WHO) International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and has made more than SEK 3.5 million (USD 400 000) available to support its implementation since the code was adopted in 2016. The new pesticide code recommends and describes ways to improve the evaluation and regulation of pesticides and is part of a global strategy to reduce chemical risks, supported by Kemi. Sweden has contributed to the development of technical guidelines and tools, built national countries' capacity to evaluate and authorize pesticides based on sound risk assessments, and reduced risks in agricultural production and food supply chains by phasing out highly hazardous pesticides.

#### Fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Another area of cooperation with Sweden, within the work of the Codex, is antimicrobial resistance. FAO, along with the WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health, plays a leading role in preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics and other antimicrobials that are important for human and animal health, in line with the Global Action Plan on AMR. While it is an essential tool in managing animal and plant health, the use of antimicrobials in agriculture is also a contributing factor in the development and transmission of antimicrobial resistance. Thus, there is an urgent need for action across sectors to reduce the need for antimicrobials, to promote prudent and responsible use - including reducing the unnecessary use of antibiotics in food-producing animals - and to prevent the transmission of foodborne AMR.

Sweden is providing an additional resource to FAO's efforts on AMR, in the form of a seconded expert in this field. The technical officer supports FAO's Animal Production and Health Division to further develop its Monitoring Capacity and tools to improve epidemiological understanding on antimicrobials, particularly in relation to the impacts of AMR on the environment. What is more, FAO has entered into a partnership with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and together they will take up the challenge of developing a manual of practical, stepwise approaches to more cautious use of antimicrobials by veterinarians and livestock producers.



## **Gunilla Eklund**Swedish seconded officer

## On the importance of fighting AMR

## Why are food and agriculture central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

AMR is acknowledged as a threat to sustainability and development efforts in the resolution incorporating the UN's SDGs. Although omitted from specific SDG targets, AMR would not only risk undoing progress made within the health sector, but also threaten poverty reduction and economic growth. The inherent conflict of significantly increasing food production to meet the demands of a growing population, and yet ensuring implementation of sustainable food production systems with less antimicrobials in the agriculture sector, has to be resolved. Key elements here are good animal husbandry practices that prevent disease, combined with commercial disincentives and a legal framework that regulates the use of antibiotics in the animal sector.

#### What is the role of FAO in the changing global development landscape?

FAO's role is key in supporting governments, producers and other stakeholders to move towards the responsible use of antimicrobials in agriculture. FAO's Conference in 2015 adopted a resolution on AMR, which recognizes that AMR poses a serious threat not only to health, but also to sustainable food production. To support the implementation of this resolution, FAO developed an Action Plan on AMR for the period 2016–2020, to support the food and agriculture sectors to combat AMR effectively.

### What are the benefits of the Sweden and FAO partnership?

Secondments of Swedish officers to FAO are strategically important to both parties and enable concrete exchange of experience. Tackling AMR has long been a Swedish priority. For example, antimicrobial growth promotion was banned already 32 years ago in Sweden, resulting in the lowest use of antimicrobials per animal in the European Union (EU) today and a very low resistance occurrence. Sweden has deployed alternative ways of preventing disease, such as vaccinations, improved biosecurity and livestock management. These alternatives can be particularly relevant for low-income countries where enforcement of regulations is difficult, or where effects of bans may be harmful for poor farmers. Our experience shows that it is possible to have good livestock productivity without excessive use of antimicrobials. The FAO-Swedish partnership thus brings efforts against AMR forward by spreading best practices on prudent use of antimicrobials, and it strengthens the multilateral competence at the Swedish Government Offices.



## Promoting equitable access to land

Throughout history, land has been recognized as a primary source of wealth, social status and power. It is the basis for shelter, food and economic activities. It is also the most significant provider of employment opportunities in rural areas and is an increasingly scarce resource in urban centres. Access to water and other resources, as well as to basic services such as sanitation and electricity, is often conditioned by access to rights in land. On top of that, the willingness and ability to make long-term investments in arable land is directly dependent on the protection that society affords the holders of such rights. That is why any concept of sustainable development relies heavily on both access to property rights in land and the security of those rights. Global guidelines like the VGGT help smallholders establish and claim these rights and can reduce their socioeconomic vulnerability.

Because land access – or the lack thereof – stands in close connection to rural poverty and food insecurity, large imbalances in access can contribute to instability. They can also limit a country's productivity, letting large swathes of land go unused. In such cases, land reform can hold the key to unleashing virtuous cycles of development in rural areas and, by extension, provide stability. Sweden has been a key partner to FAO in promoting equitable access to land, both in its investment in the implementation of the VGGT and through generous funding of specific projects that recognize the contributions that access to land has on peace and prosperity.

#### **Supporting Colombia's land restitution process**



#### Contribution

SEK 105.5 million (USD 11.7 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

8 000 families



#### Location:

17 departments; Colombia



#### **Duration:**

2014-2019



#### **Results:**

711 462 hectares of land reclaimed by ethnic families

6 000 ethnic families able to re-claim right to land

1 600 people improved their socio-economic position

51 Transitional Justice Committees revitalized

6 rural enterprises created

During half a century of conflict, much of Colombia's 22 million hectares of arable land were abandoned because of the fighting – less than a third of it was in use. When the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels finally laid down their arms in July 2017 as part of the peace deal brokered in previous years, the questions about land control and livelihoods remained. Since entering into a peace agreement with FARC in 2016, the Government of Colombia has been working ambitiously with FAO and other partners on a comprehensive plan for a rural reform to anchor and sustain peace in the country. This includes land access and tackling hunger, two sides of the same coin. Giving back land means giving back livelihoods— the first step in ending poverty and hunger. Moreover, as part of the peace deal, the Government of Colombia is rolling out more than 80 special laws and 1 000 programmes, ranging from rural electrification projects and job retraining, to income support schemes for former militia members.

With funding from Sweden, FAO has implemented two projects that strengthen the land restitution process. The Organization has been assisting the government by building the capacity of departments to implement programmes and build sound policies that support farmers' access to land and resources. It has also directly supported families with activities that have promoted integration, reconciliation and resource sharing. This includes interventions that allowed some 6 000 families to re-claim their rights to land and 1 600 people to improve their socio-economic position through the provision of a mix of tools, inputs, infrastructure and advice.

Farmers have been able to establish collective irrigation networks that capture and store rainwater. In an area that is often dry, this irrigation method is crucial to give farmers regular access to water. Moreover, the project also supported farmers in milk, coffee and honey production – providing infrastructure and equipment like small farming tools as well as training in sustainable agricultural practices.

FAO is continuing to work with the Government of Colombia and civil society organizations to provide policy advice on tenure rights, rural development and food security to help the country maintain a lasting peace.

### Returning to the land and to peace in Pertenencia

Robinson is one of the millions of people who were displaced from their homes and their lands by the armed conflict between the Government of Colombia and the FARC rebel group. This 52-year conflict left 220 000 Colombians dead and uprooted the lives of over eight million people.

"The situation continued to get worse with more violence each day until we had to abandon the land. I decided to leave because I am married and have two children. I was always very afraid with the presence of those people (the FARC)," said Robinson. His family moved from Pertenencia to the nearby town of Corozal about 10 kilometers away. His father continued tending to the farm, working during the day but leaving at night because it was too dangerous. When his father died of a heart attack, one of Robinson's brothers took over, caring for the land until he was killed by armed men in 2006.

When the Government of Colombia approved the "Land Restitution Law for Victims", Robinson was finally able to have his land back, 18 years after he was forced to leave. When he returned, he found it was now in the middle of a jungle and was hard to access. "It had nothing but weeds. That was it," he recalls.

Little by little, he built a house. Then, through the project supported by the Government of Sweden, FAO and the Land Restitution Unit, he was able to clear the land and start growing crops. He also received five cows. Now he has 16, which he can sell for money to invest in the farm. The income from the farm helps to support his family. Although he works by himself on the farm, he says that he is happy with the way things have turned out. "We learned new things. For example. FAO showed us how to make and use chemical-free fertilizers for our crops and how to better raise our cows," he adds. "What we need is peace, because if we have economic stability and food, we will succeed and will be free from the problems we see in the urban areas. We are building peace little by little," he concludes.





## Ensuring sustainable use of natural resources

Our well-being and that of our planet depends a great deal on healthy forests, soils, streams and oceans, and the genetic diversity these ecosystems offer. Ensuring the food security and prosperity of future generations is simply impossible without safeguarding these natural resources, which enable food production and, by extension, provide rural jobs.

Agriculture is where the fights against climate change and hunger come together. That makes it fertile ground for finding new approaches that increase productivity, limit agriculture's environmental footprint and help farmers adapt to a changing climate.

It is at this intersection that FAO is bringing together partners and governments, including Sweden, to build holistic solutions that serve people, producers and the planet. In addition to its ongoing commitment to protecting our oceans and marine life against IUU fishing, Sweden's collaboration with FAO has a strong focus on improving the way countries manage forest and freshwater resources.

### Boosting water productivity and sustainability in the Near East and Northern Africa



#### Contribution

SEK 91.4 million (USD 10.2 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

Governmental agencies, farmers' communities and local entrepreneurs of agricultural value chains operating in the rural sector



#### Location:

Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia



#### **Duration:**

2016-2020



#### **Results:**

Increased capacity for agricultural water productivity

Water accounting systems established

Increased water efficiency, and sustainability

Countries policies related to water informed with science based evidences

Driven by demographic growth, urbanization and rising demands for food, water and energy, countries in the Near East and Northern Africa (NENA) region have been fraught with chronic water scarcity, to an unprecedented degree for some of them. Over the last four decades, water availability in the region has decreased and is expected to continue falling by 2050. In all, NENA has the lowest per-capita fresh water resource availability among all regions of the world and unsustainable water use remains a serious problem. Climate change, meanwhile, is expected to bring more frequent, intense and long droughts to the region, forcing countries to rethink the ways they manage and allocate water resources. Agriculture, which consumes 85 percent of fresh water, in particular, needs to enhance its water efficiency and productivity.

To support countries in NENA in better managing their limited water resources, in 2013 FAO and partners launched the Regional Water Scarcity Initiative (WSI) and have since implemented a number of projects under the umbrella of the initiative. Sweden has been a key partner in this effort by funding a four-year project that benefits Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia.

The recently agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a 'transformational' change in managing strategic resources, such as water, land and energy. The project aims at supporting that change and helps member countries set the proper framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda for water efficiency and productivity (SDG 6.4), and define the safe boundaries for effective water sustainability. By increasing the capacity for agricultural productivity, the project also contributes to ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

More specifically, participating countries are working on establishing robust water accounting systems and implementing a series of interventions to assess and increase water efficiency and productivity in selected crop systems. Such interventions are implemented with an eye on sustainable, socially equitable and human rights-based development.

This project, together with others implemented at country level, contributes to the larger WSI effort to help countries review their policies related to water, food security and energy, their interrelations and effects at field level, in order to inform effective investment plans and guide towards good practices for using those resources. The WSI serves as a mechanism to provide advice to governments, farming communities and the private sector on ways to assess the situation of water resources and their uses and increase productivity of water use in agriculture, with a focus on data collection, analysis and management.



## Building incentives for legal timber production: the FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme



#### Contribution

SEK 45 million (USD 5 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

poor communities in target countries



#### Location:

25 countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia



#### **Duration:** 2015-2018



#### **Results:**

200 projects received technical support

82% of projects implemented in voluntary partnership agreement countries

96 projects endorsed for funding

Illegal logging contributes to the degradation of millions of hectares of forests each year and places pressure on valuable ecosystems. These ecosystems provide shelter and sustenance to wildlife and people alike, and frequently offer livelihoods to surrounding communities. Equally worrying are its negative contributions to climate change, as forest degradation diminishes nature's innate ability to absorb CO2. Governments not only lose an estimated USD 5 billion in unpaid taxes each year, they are also left shouldering the burden of environmental damage. This makes illegal logging a drain on countries' development potential, as it robs governments of valuable resources needed to achieve broader objectives for sustainable progress.

The FAO-EU FLEGT programme was created in 2008 to support the implementation of the EU Action Plan on FLEGT. As part of this, the EU has signed Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) with several tropical timber-exporting countries. Under the VPA, countries develop systems to verify that their timber exports are legal and traceable, and the EU then agrees to accept only licensed imports from those countries. Over a dozen countries are in the process of negotiating or implementing such bilateral trade agreements, which eventually gives them easier access to the EU market and builds trust with consumers.

The ultimate beneficiaries of the FLEGT Action plan and the FAO-EU programme are poorer communities in target countries, whose livelihoods are negatively affected by illegal and unsustainable forestry activities. Governments, too, benefit from improved planning, increased and sustainable revenues, and improved governance and rule of law, while the private sector has the advantage of a corruption-free environment conducive to competitive prices and secure rights to resources. On a global level, decreasing illegal logging contributes to the SDGs by alleviating poverty, ensuring food security, mitigating climate change and managing forests sustainably.

Between 2015 and 2018, Sweden has supported the FAO-EU FLEGT programme, which promotes legal production and consumption of tropical timber. Sweden's funding is contributing to the third phase of the successful programme, which has provided technical support and resources to more than 200 projects in some 25 countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia. More specifically, it finances projects proposed and implemented by governments, civil society and private sector organizations to increase sustainable forest management. To ensure these projects have the biggest possible impact, FAO also provides technical and operational assistance during the project design and implementation phases.

## Combating forest crime through barcode traceability in Benin

Every year, the National Timber Office of Benin (ONAB) produces roughly 50 000 cubic meters of logs from 14 000 hectares of state plantations. Local businesses buy timber, mainly teak, and process much of it before exporting it internationally. When developing countries such as Benin can certify that their timber is legally produced, they can have easier access to the EU market. Such certification begins with a solid traceability system such as ONATRACK, which assigns a unique code to each tree so that timber can be traced from the forest where the tree was felled, following it through transport, storage and sometimes as far as the finished product.

#### **Connecting in the forest**

As a first step towards certification, ONAB asked the FAO-EU FLEGT programme to help it switch from its less reliable, paper-based tracing system to using barcodes. ONATRACK uses a software programme to generate unique barcodes for trees, their stumps and logs, and uses a smartphone application to scan and record information in the field. Even when workers are deep in the plantations without a phone signal, the application stores the data and updates it automatically in a central database as soon as they are back within range. To keep costs down, ONAB acquired a barcode printer and trained staff to print and manage labels in-house.

#### **Added benefits**

One of the system's advantages has been the elimination of labour-intensive paperwork. "With the old system, I wrote all the information on sheets that were periodically sent to the data processing unit to be entered," explains ONAB tree marker Justin. "With the new system, the data processing unit obtains the information on the same day." By providing real-time information, the system makes it difficult to falsify information related to numbering, transporting and marketing state timber. It also provides ONAB with the most current information for making decisions related to sustainably managing their plantations.



After a trial in southern Benin, ONATRACK is now used to monitor all state plantation harvests, and a delegation of government and private sector representatives from the Ivory Coast visited Benin to learn from the project. "This tool makes us the leader with regard to traceability in the country, indeed, in West Africa," says Clément, who was Director General of ONAB when the system was developed. The new system has enabled ONAB to improve relations with customers, to get reliable information in real time, and to combat fraud and illegal logging. FAO continues to provide support to the project as ONAB trains additional staff to use the system nationwide.

## Promoting sustainable forest management through the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)



#### Contribution

SEK 73 million (USD 8.2 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

40 million people in poor communities



#### **Location:**

10 partner countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia



#### **Duration:**

2013-2018



#### **Results:**

947 forest-and-farm producer organizations (FFPOs) reached, 30 different value chains strengthened

33 changes in policies in 10 partner countries

USD 100 million in incentive funds leveraged

Forest farmers received 15% price increases in Viet Nam

Tenure security for 114 community forests strengthened in the Gambia

Forest and land management plans for 50,000 ha implemented in Bolivia

While public interest and investments increasingly zoom in on forests as a means to alleviate poverty, preserve valuable ecosystems and counteract climate change, such investments to date remain less effective than they could be. Most people and politicians are still unaware of the full array of social and economic benefits communities derive from forests and trees. Global investment streams – including through prominent mechanisms like the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) – have not been able to direct support down to these communities. On a more fundamental level, the forestry sector continues to act in isolation from related sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, infrastructure, mining, economy, finance and tourism. By contrast, local farmers and forest communities are well aware of the full diversity of products and services that forest ecosystems provide and how they ought to be managed in order to derive a sustainable livelihood from them. Hence, organizing and involving these groups of smallholders, women and indigenous peoples, and linking them to cross-sectoral policy platforms and markets, is key to ensuring that forest investments work on the ground.

Sweden, together with other partners, has contributed to the FFF between 2013 and 2018. The FFF promotes sustainable forest and farm management by helping local, national, regional and international producer organizations effectively engage in policies, business and investment processes to ensure they meet the needs of local people. More specifically, it funds partnership agreements and small grants with producer organizations – smallholders, women, community-based and indigenous peoples – to build their capacity to advocate for themselves and the forest resources they rely on. They also gain technical and business skills that make their enterprises more productive and more sustainable, and allow them to better market their goods in local and national markets. This improves both their income and food security. At a macro level, it also provides communities with practical alternatives to economic migration, allows producers to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, and reduces rural poverty.

In addition to producer organizations, the FFF also engages with governments to ensure the mechanisms, policy processes and investment strategies they develop are designed to be responsive to local communities. This includes organizing policy round tables between government ministries and producer groups to involve the latter in processes related to tenure, food security and nutrition, climate change, wood energy and forest landscape restoration. Thanks to the Facility, participating governments are better equipped to bring together a multitude of stakeholders and sectors in dialogue and collaborations. Through the governments and producer organizations it supports, the FFF serves over 40 million people in ten partner countries: Bolivia, Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Viet Nam and Zambia. In addition to instructors provided through the FFF, the Facility enhances farmer-to-farmer learning and South-South collaboration through exchanges within and between countries.

## Harvesting the benefits of cooperation: lessons from producer organizations in Viet Nam

Farmers in Viet Nam tend to work with small areas of land where they grow a variety of different products, from livestock to trees for timber, fruit trees, rice, cassava and fish. Since most of them produce and market individually, they do not benefit from economies of scale. They also rarely share knowledge on products or prices in ways that could place them in a stronger position when negotiating with traders, who are their main access to markets. What is more, farmers who are part of the Vietnam National Farmers Union (VNFU) planted 3.5 million hectares of trees, but these trees are often cut prematurely and sold to the pulp industry, which limits the value farmers can derive from their planting.

When the FFF first came to Viet Nam two years ago at the request of the VNFU it supported meetings with farmers and forest community groups. It trained and supported them to form forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs) and arranged meetings with the local government to discuss policies. Experts from the ministries and staff of local authorities regularly accompanied FFF work and as a result gained a greater understanding of the benefits that supporting FFPOs has for socio-economic

development and of the need to include them in socioeconomic plans. Among the many policy-related issues that were raised, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources agreed to speed up the process of delivering forest land use certificates, while the Trade and Industry Department produced a guide for FFPOs to register their product design processes and product packaging.

Forming producer organizations has allowed producers to benefit from economies of scale, add value to products through processing, access new markets, negotiate better prices and attract external support, including from the government. By 2017, implementation of FFF had enabled FFPOs in Viet Nam to register as cooperatives, take out government loans, attract private sector financing and form larger enterprises. This led to investments in better technology and processing equipment. As a result, timber production capacity increased by up to 20 percent per month. This, in turn, allowed the FFPOs to fulfil large orders from furniture makers, at 15 percent better prices.

Governments, meanwhile, have been acknowledging the role of FFF in supporting policy changes and its contribution to reducing poverty in rural areas, as well as the direct gains they have been able to make in forest restoration and climate change mitigation and adaptation thanks to the Facility.





## A strategic, more cost-effective response: FMM

FAO's Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM) is a pooled fund that was established in 2010 as a new vehicle for partners willing to contribute to FAO's work through flexible contributions. Between 2014 and 2017, Sweden, along with other resource partners, provided around USD 47 million in flexible funds to FMM, which were used for projects that built the capacity of producers and agripreneurs, helped governments create sound policies, and supported partnerships between different actors in the agriculture and food sector.

FAO has been joining forces with a number of partners – including Sweden, with a contribution of close to SEK 139 million (USD 15.4 million) through the FMM – to invest in rural infrastructure, agricultural development and social entrepreneurship. This has created new opportunities for a growing demographic across Africa, Latin America and Asia. By expanding employment opportunities for women, men and young people in rural areas, FAO and its partners are supporting livelihoods and wider development.

FAO helps communities identify existing business opportunities and establish a public-private support system, with a special focus on involving rural women and youth in agribusiness and valueadded agriculture jobs. These types of investments are essential for connecting new generations to the land and for allowing them to see a stable future free from poverty in the rural areas they grow up in. Without job opportunities and services in these agricultural areas, many young people will see no other option but to migrate to urban centres or risk dangerous journeys in search of a better life beyond their borders. Agricultural jobs and agribusinesses also offer excellent opportunities to improve the position of women in rural areas and eliminate some of the vulnerabilities they face owing to a myriad of socio-economic limitations, including more restricted access to productive resources, training and financial services. Providing women with better access to extension services and markets allows them to increase their productivity and earning power, while raising family incomes and food security.

## Creating opportunities for rural youth through decent work in agriculture



#### Contribution

SEK 31 million (USD 3.4 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

rural young women and men aged 15-34



#### **Location:**

Guatemala, Senegal and Uganda



#### **Duration:**

2015-2018



#### **Results:**

2 000 beneficiaries, including 1 200 youth, increased awareness on DRE

850 beneficiaries, including 600 youth, strengthened capacities through training

Rural employment policies designed and implemented

Synergies created between decent rural employment, agriculture, migration, and youthand gender-related policies

Gender equality and environmental sustainability enhanced In its work to foster decent rural employment (DRE), FAO has a special focus on youth. In this context, the Organization's Integrated Country Approach (ICA) for promoting decent rural youth employment strives to create an enabling environment to help rural youth grasp existing business opportunities, including through public-private support systems. The aim is to generate not only more jobs but better jobs. Policy support and capacity development are at the centre of the entire approach.

From 2015 to 2018, Sweden backed this work with its contribution made through the FMM. Through the project, FAO supported three countries – Guatemala, Senegal and Uganda – in developing and implementing youth employment-enhancing agricultural and rural development policies, strategies and programmes. Along the way, FAO encouraged dialogue between labour, agriculture and other relevant stakeholders to create cross-sectoral synergies.

Part of the larger challenge has been to make agriculture more modern and attractive to young people by showing that, with the right national support system, solid entrepreneurial skills applied to the agricultural domain can lead to successful agribusinesses.

The intervention also had a global component that boosted FAO's overall capacity to provide targeted support to empower rural youth. This included developing new approaches and trainings to address the specific needs of young workers in the rural sector.



## In Senegal, a young woman's agribusiness is going global

Adama is a young agripreneur and youth leader from Senegal who has benefited from the support of the Kaolack Chamber of Commerce and FAO through the ICA project. Thanks to the project, she was able to establish her own company, Baonane SA.R.L., providing agricultural products for the international food and cosmetics industry. She employs 106 women and men, offering them the opportunity to combine ancestral knowledge with technology and modern standards. Adama is among a growing number of young people who have benefited from FAO's collaboration with the Senegalese private sector to promote decent employment opportunities for youth.

FAO has supported the government in developing and implementing its national Rural Youth Employment policy, which is meant to create some 150 000 jobs per year. Part of this work has included the promotion of business competition, specific trainings, and a model for youth engagement in agricultural value chains, "MIJA", through a network of six integrated

platforms. These platforms work as incubators to support young start-ups in agribusiness and "agropoles" to boost youth entrepreneurship. In addition to policy support, FAO and the government annually organize events to connect to rural youth. Adama attended one of these events, where she learned about new opportunities to market agricultural products and was able to connect with a number of extension services.

Adama's entrepreneurship has not only built her a steady income and higher quality of life – by employing a large number of local workers, she has also benefited her community. Since her business model relies fully on local resources – in terms of both labour and inputs – it is sustainable and could be easily replicated in other contexts.

In addition to boosting entrepreneurship, FAO has also helped develop the National Observatory of Rural Employment, which is a dynamic online hub that leverages mobile technology and serves as a platform for rural youth, producers and development partners to monitor the national labour market, get information regarding agricultural products and collect data on the agricultural sector.

#### Bringing women into value chains in Africa



#### Contribution

SEK 35.4 million (USD 3.9 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

small-scale female food processors in selected countries



#### Location:

Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Tunisia



#### **Duration:** 2013-2018



#### **Results:**

Women's capacities strengthened through training

Women improved market-oriented production

Women added value to their raw products

Women increased their access to finance

With Sweden's contribution through the FMM, FAO was able to provide technical assistance and policy support to seven countries in Africa, boosting their efforts to make agribusinesses and food value chains more inclusive and improve rural women's access to local and national markets. Running from 2013 through 2018, the project has directly supported female actors in rural small-scale value chains, mainly through women's associations, cooperatives, unions and farmers' groups. More specifically, the initiative assisted horticultural producers and processors in Ethiopia, dairy producers in Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia, fish smokers in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, and clam collectors in Tunisia. It also supported cassava processors in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and boosted small-scale crossborder trade of agricultural products in Rwanda.

The project has strengthened the capacities and skills of women's groups through trainings, knowledge-sharing events and study tours. FAO also provided specific support to allow women to improve market-oriented production, value-addition and commercialization, as well as to develop their enterprise, build business-to-business linkages and increase their access to finance.

To improve the enabling environment for gender-sensitive value chains, FAO has adopted a multilevel approach: coupling advocacy work with regional and continental bodies, such as the African Union; and developing the capacity of policy-makers from ministries and national institutions to provide efficient services to actors in women's agrifood value chains and to address gender inequalities. This included several training programmes and exchange visits for decision-makers and national extension workers. Experiences from the project implementation have informed new knowledge tools, including guidelines for practitioners and policy-makers on how to develop gender-sensitive value chains, and an e-learning package developed in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.



## Shortening the value chain – lessons from interventions in Tunisia's clam sector

Houda is a clam collector in Tunisia's southeastern Zaboussa region. Some 4 000 women in this region make a living from clam production – a sector that yields some 700 tonnes each year, the majority of which is sold abroad.

Due to the lack of direct access to markets, Houda used to struggle to negotiate a decent price with intermediaries, whom she depended on to sell her harvest. Left at the whim of intermediaries, who knew that Houda had to sell at whatever price, she struggled to make a living. "Of course, we were exploited, but nobody dared to stand up to these intermediaries who were also close relatives and local powerful people," she recalls.

FAO focused on empowering women collectors, while developing a strategic partnership with the private sector to improve women's income by creating a more direct access to valuable markets.

On the ground, the process unfolds like this: First, a fixed price is set in advance to guarantee the predictability of payments and receivables for both the importer and the women collectors throughout the harvest season. Onsite, purchasers then make cash payments to the women collectors, who, in turn, can get a premium fee if they choose to collect only larger-sized clams. This also contributes to a more sustainable production system, as young clams get to mature.

Through the new Equity Link initiative, the price of 1 kilo of clams more than doubled, from USD 3.30 to USD 7.60 (from TND 8 to TND 18, in local currency), for the entire collection season. It has also made the clam value chain more transparent. Through the joint coordination of FAO and the Tunisian government, Tunisian women clam collectors have been given privileged access to the high-value European market, by way of an equity partnership with the Italian importer Pesca Pronta. A local export centre, meanwhile, ensures the clams are cleaned and comply with international food safety standards. The products carry a new label, developed specifically for Tunisian clams produced through the initiative, which informs consumers of the production practices relating to sustainability, gender inclusion and quality. The new price scheme has considerably increased Houda's income: "it encourages us to make additional efforts so we can improve our families' standard of living," she says.

## Beyond the FMM: Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

Alongside its western neighbour Norway, Sweden has been a leading resource partner to the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (JP RWEE). With a contribution of SEK 108 million (USD 12 million) out of the total SEK 315 million (USD 35 million) resource needs planned for the five-year programme at inception, Sweden has supported the programme's implementation in seven countries - Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.

The programme marks a new kind of collaboration between four UN agencies – FAO, the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), UN Women and the World Food Programme (WFP) – that merges their diverse expertise to elevate the opportunities of women living in rural areas.

The overarching goal of this joint programme is to economically empower rural women in selected sites by improving their food and nutrition security, increasing their access to and control over productive resources, services and income, reducing their workload, and strengthening their participation and leadership in local governance and rural producer organizations.

Between 2017 and 2022, the programme will support various projects that promote these objectives in different developing regions, made possible with the contribution of several resource partners, including Sweden's additional contribution of SEK 45 million (USD 5 million) in 2018. In its first year of operation, the programme has already made a difference in the lives of some 41 000 women through activities ranging from business training to nutrition education and facilitating access to loans.





# Bridging development and humanitarian objectives

We cannot hope to end hunger and poverty without strengthening the resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods to shocks. The world's 2.5 billion people who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods often bear the worst impact of crises driven by conflict, natural hazards, climate change, and food chain threats like animal and plant pests and diseases. Through its resilience programme, FAO combines the strengths of humanitarian assistance and development actions to assist countries to effectively prevent and cope with threats and disasters that affect agriculture, food security and nutrition. FAO's approach is proactive – by addressing the root causes of risk and crises and focusing on risk prevention, real progress can be made in achieving a world free of hunger.

Sweden has long been a vital partner to FAO's work in emergencies and protracted crises and contributed to this area through multi-year agreements. Part of these funds were designated as flexible contribution to FAO's Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA). Together, these funds not only saved lives

and preserved the dignity of vulnerable communities caught up in crisis, but also strengthened their livelihoods so that they can better withstand future shocks. This timely investment reduced humanitarian needs (and costs) and allowed for a more targeted allocation of limited humanitarian resources. Sweden's ongoing support has enhanced FAO's capacity to harness the complex relationship between agriculturebased livelihoods, long-term development and peace. Agriculture remains the backbone of rural livelihoods, providing food and incomes and, by extension, contributing to stability. As such, it simply cannot be an afterthought when addressing the needs of those affected by crisis. Maintaining food production and rebuilding the agriculture sector are fundamental to preventing loss of life from severe hunger and to providing a pathway towards resilience, recovery and, ultimately, sustainable development.

## Turning a new approach into action

At the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, FAO committed to a new way of working, in line with the Grand Bargain, which called for integrated, context-specific, multiyear, multipartner actions led by national governments and local communities and supported by multiyear financing.

With an unprecedented level of humanitarian needs driven largely by protracted crises, FAO is actively bridging humanitarian and development objectives, and framing its interventions within the humanitarian—development—peace nexus. This entails significantly strengthened efforts in sharing data relating to vulnerability; undertaking joint assessments and analysis of needs, response and future risks; and collaborating on planning and programming, backed up by appropriate financing modalities and stronger leadership in support of collective outcomes.

Where previous international models for responding to humanitarian emergencies addressed the immediate needs of communities, Sweden's ongoing support has allowed FAO to promote a paradigm that involves the transition, recovery and development phases, with a special emphasis on the role agriculture can play in facilitating the transition from conflict and crisis to sustainable peace.

FAO recognizes that advancing such new and differentiated approaches to protracted crises, including promoting resilience of vulnerable communities and livelihoods, is the most effective way to break the cycle of vulnerability and achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

# Stronger coordination for more effective aid: The Global Food Security Cluster

Since 2011, the Global Food Security Cluster has been coordinating the food security response in humanitarian crises. FAO is co-leading the cluster with WFP with a support team based in Rome. The cluster works with and through its partners and stakeholders, which include NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, UN organizations, governments and donors. It operates from the understanding that effective responses to emergencies require effective coordination and partnership by all actors on the ground.

To support this effort to increase aid effectiveness, Sweden contributed to the implementation of the cluster's Strategic Plan 2015-2016, as well as the most recent plan for 2017-2019, which reflects commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit to better serve people in crisis.

With Sweden's funding, potential and already deployed cluster coordinators and information management officers received advanced training to better respond to sudden onset emergencies and multiple protracted crises. This funding enhanced speedy deployments in cases where cluster lead agencies at the country level did not have the necessarily immediate staff resources for coordination, and promoted stronger dialogue with other clusters working in the same country at the same time, such as the health, nutrition and early recovery clusters, to name a few.



# Restoring agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods affected by Boko Haram



#### **Contribution**

SEK 9.6 million (USD 1.1 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

13 000 households (89 000 people)



#### Location:

Northeastern Nigeria



#### **Duration:**

Jan 2017 - Dec 2017



#### **Results:**

50 000 cattle vaccinated

40 600 people supported in livestock management

49 000 people (3 290 women) supported with seeds and fertilizers

Dietary diversity increased by 35%

800 female-headed households received four goats

The Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria resulted in massive population displacements, with about 1.9 million people who were forced to leave behind their homes and farms in search for safety. The disruption of agriculture-based livelihoods and access to food supplies left an estimated 5 million people severely food insecure during the peak of the 2017 lean season in the three most affected states - Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Following the slight improvement of the security situation and increased Government control over certain areas, people started to return to their areas of origin in the attempt to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. However, the lack of agricultural inputs was identified as a major constraint for many farmers, increasing the risk of having to rely on humanitarian aid to meet their food needs.

FAO, with support from Sweden, assisted targeted vulnerable households across the three affected states with crop and livestock activities throughout 2017. The project provided internally displaced people, host communities and returnees with a mix of inputs, veterinary services and cash support.

In doing so, FAO acted early based on early warning signs – food security analysis in the fall of 2016 projected that around 5.1 million people could be struggling with high levels of food insecurity in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states the following summer.

These activities also targeted families in camps, who once they reach safety, often find themselves unable to provide for their families.

# For camp residents, gardens improve diets and increase incomes

When Gana first arrived in Bakassi camp in 2014, she tried to make traditional caps that she sold in the city. However, she was not earning enough to provide for herself and her five children. "I was unable to meet the needs of my family, as I was only earning NGN 2 000 – 3 000 (about USD 5.70 – 8.50) in two months," she says. "That's why the assistance that I received has been essential for our survival."

Since entering the camp, Gana has benefited from a number of seed distributions, most

recently as part of FAO's 2017 dry season programme in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states.

With the vegetable seeds she received she set up her farm and has been able to cook healthy meals for her family. She also sells a portion of the vegetables she produces, and uses the income to buy firewood for cooking.

"The vegetable garden has been everything to me as it feeds our family. Whenever I am able to buy some fish for the family, I cook it with our vegetables and we feel like we are eating like the rich," she says. Her plan is to expand her vegetable farm to generate more produce and income.



## Supporting insecurity-affected families in Chad's lake region



#### Contribution

SEK 17.3 million (USD 1.9 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

10 000 families



#### **Location:**

Chad



#### **Duration:**

2017-2019



#### **Results:**

5 200 ha of land cultivated

7 500 tonnes of cereals and legumes produced

2 000 agropastoralist households (55% female-headed) received agricultural inputs

71 tonnes of seeds distributed (cowpea, maize and sorghum)

600 kg of vegetable seeds (carrots, eggplant, pepper, okra, onion and tomato) distributed

2 400 goats distributed

Chad's Lake region, bordering the Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon, is among the least developed areas in the country and one of the most vulnerable in socio-economic terms. Ongoing insecurity owing to threats from Boko Haram has put a damper on the local economy, which already suffered from isolation, climate change, environmental fragility and demographic pressure. Assessments in late 2016 projected that 4.7 million people – a third of the country – would have been in need of humanitarian assistance during the 2017 lean season. More than half were women. Close to 900 000 people would have faced severe food insecurity, unsure where their next meal would be coming from.

With a contribution from Sweden, FAO is halfway into implementing a three-year project that focuses on preventing a further decline in food security by providing access to seeds and tools, land and socio-economic activities that strengthen the self-sufficiency of families. More specifically, activities are helping vulnerable families diversify, transform and conserve their agricultural products, with an eye on boosting their nutrition and ability to generate income from a wider range of goods.

Distributions and support are ongoing until 2019, when targeted vulnerable families will have received seeds to plant nutritious carrots, cowpeas, tomatoes, eggplant and okra, among others, along with cereals like maize and sorghum. These households are also receiving rakes, shovels and water cans to make their rain fed production easier. Of the households FAO reached during the first cycle of distributions, 55 percent were headed by women. Furthermore, a selected number of female-headed households also received two small ruminants each, which further increased their household income, diet and social standing as income generators.

In addition to inputs, women's groups are receiving training on how to run savings and credit systems, as another way to enhance their ability to start small income-generating activities or expand their existing production into new activities.

A little more than one year in, the project has reported good coordination among local authorities and traditional leaders, as well as strong integration of traditional leaders in the implementation of activities. In this period, agropastoral families cultivated 5 200 hectares of land with an estimated production of some 7 500 tonnes of cereals and legumes, enough food to cover three months of cereal needs following the harvest. The project will continue its strong emphasis on selecting women beneficiaries in the coming phases.



# Restoring resilience and food systems of drought-struck families in Guatemala



#### Contribution

SEK 31.5 million (USD 3.5 million)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

7 000 families



#### Location:

Departments of Chiquimula and Jalapa; Guatemala



#### **Duration:**

2015 - 2019



#### **Results:**

339 agricultural extension workers trained

118 hectares of land rehabilitated

566 family gardens implemented

9 new irrigation systems installed

4 239 water storage kits distributed

9 million litres of water captured by water reservoirs

Central America is one of the regions in the world that presents the greatest vulnerability to climate risks and natural disasters. In Guatemala, the effects of climate change are increasingly recurrent, causing damage and losses, mainly in the food support bases of poor and extremely poor families, exacerbating their vulnerability to more important threats. In 2014, Guatemala experienced a prolonged heat, with the Dry Corridor area being the most affected, reaching, in some areas, a record 45 days without rain. On average, farmers lost 80 percent of their corn crop and 63 percent of their bean crop. A similar dry spell occurred in 2015, owing to El Niño, further deteriorating the food and nutrition security of peasant families who were already struggling to cope.

With Swedish support, FAO has been assisting targeted families across five municipalities in the departments of Chiquimula and Jalapa, who suffered under the effects of prolonged heat in 2014. Thanks to the project, these families were able to recover their local food systems and make them more resilient to adverse weather events.

To this end, they received training on how to better manage their land, seeds and water resources and establish mutual contingency funds that could serve as basic vulnerability insurance. In addition, they learned how to come together as a community to manage the territorial development in their surrounding area, particularly by creating shared watersheds, or microbasins.

## Saving seeds for a rainy day

Santos lives in the upper part of the microbasin, in the community of Pitahaya, Camotán. He has been a farmer since he was 18. Almost ten years ago, Santos, like most of his neighbours, produced corn and beans. However, due to climate variations he lost a large percentage of his production. As a result, he decided to change to coffee production, which is also more profitable. "When there is climate change, you must have a change of attitude," he says. "Food security is not just corn, it is access to all kinds of food."

Like Santos, other producers decided to switch to coffee production as well, and to reforest the area of the microbasin in which they are located. "Certainly we already had our coffee production when the project came to support us. But they have trained us in practices that have improved the production and our income," according to the community leader.

In the community of Mariba on the other side of the hill, on the middle part of the microbasin, they have developed a community bank of native seeds, basic grains and agricultural tools that serves 150 member families. "When Hurricane Mitch came, it destroyed

our crops. In that moment we learned that we should take action to restore and protect our seeds and grains," recalls Don Moises, president of the bank. In this bank, they currently store 26 quintals of corn seed and 2.5 of bean seed that are used when one of the members suffers some loss in either of said crops.

As for the consumption grain, they store the surplus when production is good. When it is scarce, they sell it to other members at below market price. In addition, members use the stored tools when they need them, or when they work in the communal production of corn and beans. "We have two blocks of land in which we produce the seed and the grain. In the field, we implemented different practices in which we have been trained by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food," Moises explains. "These include living barriers, no burning, stubble, generation and use of compost and agroforestry systems."

In addition, in Jalapa and Chiquimula, located in the Dry Corridor, 302 more families have implemented another nine community banks of native seeds, along with 12 grain banks that have sold 900 quintals of corn and 400 quintals of beans.



# Flexible funds for rapid action: SFERA

Most of the poor and hungry depend on renewable natural resources for their livelihoods. These natural resource-based livelihoods are most affected by natural hazards, transboundary pests and diseases, socio-economic shocks, conflict and protracted crises, making smallholder farmers, fishers and herders more vulnerable to shocks.

During a crisis, many productive assets such as seeds, livestock and fishing gear are lost. FAO's first priority is to help affected farming families produce their own food, and to rebuild their lives and livelihoods as quickly as possible while strengthening their resilience.

When effective agriculture-based response is delayed, communities suffer a domino effect of further losses that plunge them deeper into poverty and reliance on external aid.

The Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) was established in 2004 to enhance FAO's capacity to rapidly respond to emergency situations. Through strategic resource partner funding, SFERA provides FAO with the financial means and flexibility to react promptly to humanitarian crises.

For the first time, in 2017, Sweden provided unearmarked funds to SFERA. These funds, which were used to boost the Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) and support country teams, significantly reduce the time between funding decisions and actions on the ground. This has allowed FAO to act rapidly in large-scale crises, based on early warning signs that a food security situation is deteriorating. Such early action is critical to alleviating suffering and protecting lives and livelihoods. It also tends to be many times more cost-effective than intervening after a full-blown catastrophe has unfolded.

Sweden's contributions to SFERA were geared towards urgent actions in countries such as Yemen and Syria that protected some of the most vulnerable people, including by giving them the ability to plant home gardens and nourish their families at critical times in the ongoing conflicts. The funds also supported rapid response activities in Ethiopia to help farmers through drought. All SFERA funds were used in 2017, allowing FAO to fill urgent gaps in responding to emerging and expanding needs in crises.

### Flexible emergency funds allow for:

- ♣ Rapid and effective agricultural assistance thanks to the quick release of funding within a few days after a disaster, even before official resource partner agreements are finalized.
- → Strategic programme support to formulate resilience-building response.
- Quick capacity recovery of crisis-affected populations through rapid agricultural input delivery to restore food production and stabilize livelihoods.
- ➡ Increased cost-effectiveness by reducing time and transaction costs for all stakeholders.



## Backyard gardens support vulnerable households in Yemen



#### Contribution

**SEK 4.3 million** (USD 478 767)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

4 250 households (29 750 individuals)



#### **Location:**

Dhamar Governorate; Yemen



#### **Duration:**

Jan 2017-Dec 2017



#### **Results:**

4 250 beneficiaries provided with vegetable seeds

77% of female volunteers gained knowledge and skills in nutrition, food security, land preparation and harvesting

4 training workshops conducted, targeting 120 female volunteers

In 2016, Yemen saw its agriculture production shrink by 38 percent, as many farmers could not access the inputs they needed to grow food. Livestock production, too, declined by more than a third. It quickly became clear that such agricultural shortfalls would have devastating effects on food security in a country already teetering on the brink of catastrophe. Food prices, meanwhile, continued to rise amidst insecurity, import restrictions and Yemen's collapsing economy. This was devastating for families, given that the country imports about 90 percent of its staple foods. By the end of the summer, more than 14 million people were severely food insecure – one step away from the famine phase – with worsening outlooks.

With the support of partners, including Sweden, FAO helped avert famine in Yemen in 2017, by acting early to build the resilience and protect the productive assets of the most vulnerable households. More specifically, Sweden's contribution assisted families in Dhamar governorate, where around 55 percent of the population at the time was in the crisis or emergency phases of food insecurity. By the time the project was conceived, almost half of the families in Dhamar purchased food on credit, more than 10 percent spent their savings to buy food, and two-thirds of the households surveyed said they were overall in a much worse economic situation in 2016 compared to the beginning of 2014 when unrest started. Some families were forced to sell household assets, and the most desperate ones had to let go of their last female animal to foresee their immediate needs. Seeds for planting were nowhere to be found.

In response, FAO helped families set up home gardens that would provide them with fresh vegetables throughout the year. Such gardens featured vegetable varieties not available in local markets, which made families' diets more diverse. Home gardening also saved them substantial money and time they would otherwise have spent searching for food at local markets. Through the project, families received seeds, and training on soil management and fencing, along with nutrition education and tips on how to set up their garden for the best results.

The project, which ran from January through December 2017, focused specifically on families with malnourished children under 5 years of age, along with pregnant and nursing women. This group included internally displaced people, returnees and host communities. Special attention was also given to female-headed households, families suffering from acute malnutrition and food insecurity, widowed people and families with disabled relatives.



# Small gardens make a big difference for vulnerable communities in Syria



#### Contribution

**SEK 4.3 million** (USD 478 768)



#### **Beneficiaries:**

4 300 vulnerable households (25 800 individuals)



#### Location:

Quneitra and Dara'a governorates; Syria



#### **Duration:**

June 2017 - Dec 2017



#### **Results:**

1 137 homestead kits distributed

591 microgardening kits distributed

1 728 vulnerable households increased vegetable production

1 728 vulnerable households sensitized on agriculture and nutrition practices

Across Syria's rural areas, production of cereals, vegetables and animal products has plummeted since the start of the crisis in 2011. Widespread damage to infrastructure and equipment has seriously affected the agriculture sector, as have high prices, disrupted markets and shortages of inputs and energy. Agriculture's contribution to the gross domestic product fell by 60 percent in the first six years of the conflict and the sector at large suffered damage and losses estimated at USD 16 billion. Nevertheless, it remained remarkably resilient remained remarkably resilient under the circumstances and continues to represent a critical safety net for the 6.7 million Syrians who remain in rural areas. A majority of families continue to grow food, even if in severely reduced quantities. Helping them to do so has contributed to stability, food security and incomes, while reducing conflict-related migration and tension in host communities.

Since 2011, FAO has supported the livelihoods and nutrition security of more than 2.4 million Syrians in rural and peri-urban areas – particularly in the governorates of Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Dara'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Rural Damascus, As-Sweida and Quneitra. Over the last biennium, Sweden contributed to these efforts at a critical time for many crisis-worn families in Syria. At that point, some 90 percent of households were spending more than half of their annual income on food – between three and four times more than before the war – and around half the population was unable to meet its daily food needs.

The project assisted targeted families with household-level vegetable production. It focused on internally displaced persons and populations living in hard-to-reach areas, who are particularly vulnerable owing to their minimal access to land, water and farming supplies. Likewise, their access to markets is extremely irregular. In these situations, homestead- and microgardening kits allowed families to grow nutritious food on very limited surfaces to complement the food rations distributed by other humanitarian actors. The kits, which contain different kinds of vegetable seeds, hand tools and fertilizers in liquid form, assisted displaced households, who have been settled together and granted access to parcels of land with limited size. In addition, they served a variety of vulnerable households – selected from both displaced and host communities – who had no land at their disposal. Thanks to the micro kits, this group can plant bucket gardens on terraces and use small backyards and slivers of public space to grow vegetables.

Recipients also received hands-on training on how to grow vegetable crops and improve their overall nutrition with the means available to them, as well as on post-harvest activities they can undertake to generate steady income from the excess food they grow.



## List of projects funded by Sweden (ongoing over the 2016-2017 period)\*

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
GCP /RAS/229/SWE	Pesticide Risk Reduction in the South East Asia	14,489,553.00	2007-02-01	2018-12-31	Ongoing
GCP /RNE/009/SWE	Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Water Efficiency/Productivity & Water Sustainability in NENA	10,153,938.00	2016-12-15	2020-12-15	Ongoing
GCP /COL/050/SWE	Fortalecimiento de la sostenibilidad de procesos de restitución de tierras	5,999,010.00	2014-01-01	2017-03-31	Closed
GCP /COL/076/SWE	Fortalecimiento de la implementación de política pública de restitución de tierras y territorios	5,708,295.00	2016-12-01	2019-11-30	Ongoing
OSRO/SOM/416/SWE	FAO Resilience Programme -Contribution to the Emergency Response Plan 2014-2015	4,431,973.00	2014-11-28	2016-12-31	Closed
GCP /GUA/024/SWE	Restablecimiento del Sistema Alimentario y fortalecimiento de la Resiliencia de familias afectadas por la Canícula Prolongada 2014 en municipios de Chiquimula y Jalapa, Guatemala	3,569,142.00	2015-01-01	2019-06-30	Ongoing
OSRO/SOM/409/SWE	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) - Phase VII SIDA Contribution	3,240,004.00	2014-08-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/COL/603/SWE	Comunidades rurales resilientes para la construcción de paz	2,924,661.00	2016-09-01	2019-08-31	Ongoing
OSRO/CHD/701/SWE	Support to Agro Pastoral Households Affected by Lake Chad Crisis	1,988,731.00	2017-01-01	2019-12-31	Ongoing
OSRO/MLI/701/SWE	Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable agro pastoralists' households affected by security crisis	1,988,731.00	2017-01-01	2019-12-31	Ongoing
OSRO/NER/404/SWE	Emergency support to vulnerable households affected by the 2013 food crop shortage	1,558,585.00	2014-06-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/MLI/405/SWE	Building livelihoods resilience for farmers and agro pastoralists households affected by the security crisis and climate change.	1,485,329.00	2014-06-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/CHD/405/SWE	Building the resilience of vulnerable populations affected by multifaceted crises in Chad	1,441,034.00	2014-08-15	2016-12-31	Closed

<sup>\*</sup> Contributions provided to the Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds are not included.

<sup>\*\*</sup> In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> As of 4 July 2018

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
OSRO/COL/404/SWE	Rehabilitation of livelihoods and food security for vulnerable people affected by violence in Córdoba and Putumayo, as a strategy for implementing the right to food, rebuilding the social fabric and promoting peace actions	1,346,320.00	2014-06-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/NER/701/SWE	Emergency assistance to refugees/returnees and IDPs victims of Boko Haram crisis and resilience building in Diffa Region	1,325,821.00	2017-01-01	2019-12-31	Ongoing
OSRO/CMR/701/SWE	Strengthening the resilience of food insecure IDPs, returnees and host communities	1,324,800.00	2017-01-01	2019-12-31	Ongoing
OSRO/ETH/404/SWE	Managing the rain-improving the management of rainwater resoruces	1,205,934.00	2014-06-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/KEN/401/SWE	Improved food security and resilience for vulnerable communities in Kenya	1,205,933.00	2014-07-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/NIR/701/SWE	Restoring agriculture and livestock based livelihoods of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host households in North East Nigeria	1,104,850.00	2017-01-01	2017-12-31	Closed
OSRO/SOM/702/SWE	Building Resilient Livelihoods to Improve Food Security and Nutrition in Somalia	883,880.00	2017-01-01	2017-12-31	Closed
OSRO/GUI/501/SWE	Emergency assistance to fishing communities in the coastal zone of Guinea, victims of the EVO	736,594.00	2016-01-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/SIL/501/SWE	Post Ebola Recovery, Agribusines, food and nutrition security and women's empowerment	736,594.00	2016-01-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/CMR/601/SWE	Building the resilience of vulnerable populations affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in the FN	592,000.00	2016-07-19	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/GLO/405/SWE	Food Security Cluster support to national programming and operations	549,204.00	2014-08-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/SYR/706/SWE	Support to Resilience, FS & Socio-economic Inclusion of IDPs & Vulnerable Host Commununities Syria	478,768.00	2017-06-15	2017-12-31	Closed
OSRO/YEM/702/SWE	Integrated FSN sensitive response to the most vulnerable households in Dhamar Governorate	478,767.00	2017-01-01	2017-12-31	Closed

## List of projects funded by Sweden (ongoing over the 2016-2017 period)\*

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
OSRO/ETH/703/SWE	Reinforcing resilience of livestock-based livelihoods and nutrition in 3 woredas in SNNPR	478,000.00	2017-06-15	2017-12-31	Closed
GCPT/GLO/837/SWE	Developing monitoring capacity and tools to improve epidemiological understanding on antimicrobials,	477,656.00	2017-09-01	2019-08-30	Ongoing
OSRO/DJI/501/SWE	Enhancing the resilience of vulnerable pastoral communities through appropriate early warning systems and community-based disaster risk reduction and management in Djibouti	443,920.00	2015-04-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/SOM/703/SWE	Support to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) for Somalia	441,940.00	2017-01-01	2017-12-31	Closed
GCP /GLO/567/SWE	Support to the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management	429,905.00	2014-11-01	2018-12-31	Ongoing
OSRO/CHD/601/SWE	Building the resilience of vulnerable populations affected by multifaceted crises in the Lake Chad region	368,505.00	2016-01-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/UGA/702/SWE	Emergency Agricultural Livelihood Support for Improved Resilience and Self-reliance of Refugees from	307,731.00	2017-01-01	2017-12-31	Closed
OSRO/GLO/701/SWE	Strengthening the cash-based programming and implementation capacities of FAO and its partners	220,800.00	2017-01-01	2018-03-31	Ongoing
OSRO/GLO/702/SWE	Support to the Global Food Security Cluster	220,800.00	2017-01-01	2017-12-31	Closed
OSRO/DRK/402/SWE	Coordination, Food Security and Agriculture	217,549.00	2014-06-01	2016-03-30	Closed
OSRO/GLO/404/SWE	Capacity building activities on cash transfer programming and implementation	217,549.00	2014-08-01	2016-02-28	Closed
Support on Gender, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), programming and close Mosk of the Mosk of the Mosk of the Populations (AAP), programming and close monitoring to four national resilience and humanitarian projects in West Africa and the Sahel (Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Niger).		165,728.00	2017-01-01	2018-03-31	Ongoing

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\*\* In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> As of 4 July 2018

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