The new phase of the ASTF - an expanded partnership

The replenished ASTF seeks to expand its reach in terms of both volume and scale of impact through three key components:

**Accelerated and targeted action** to support the implementation of the SDGs at country level with a view to achieving collective outcomes at regional level.

**Strengthened cooperation** to harness intra-Africa development solutions while fostering knowledge creation and dissemination among Africa’s Centres of Excellence.

**Innovative financial modalities** that include financial streams from African countries and from partners of Africa:

- **Africa to Africa funding window** - building on the lessons from the first phase with enhanced African contributions.
- **Africa’s Partners funding window** - which promotes the ‘friends of Africa’ concept while enabling contributions from development partners such as bilateral and multilateral donors as well as partnerships with the private sector and other capital providers.

For more information:
FAO Resource Mobilization Division
Technical Cooperation Department
TCR-Director@fao.org

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The Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF)

The Sustainable Development Goals and Africa’s Agenda 2063 define the context in which FAO collaborates with its partners to advancing Africa’s development priorities over the next decades.

Launched in 2013, the ASTF provides catalytic and flexible funding to Africa-to-Africa initiatives on food and agriculture, at regional and country level. As a FAO initiative, the ASTF already proves its success rating as an innovative African-led instrument for sustainable development.

By unlocking the potential of intra-African cooperation to bring about rural transformation, the ASTF is a unique funding mechanism that pools resources from Africa to address critical gaps in the development agenda of African countries. Harnessing homegrown knowledge, technology and good practices for food and nutrition security is at the core of this initiative.

With an initial USD 40 million from Equatorial Guinea, Angola and symbolic contributions from civil society organizations, the ASTF enables FAO to assist African countries in addressing agricultural issues linked to peace, food security and nutrition, employment, environment and climate change, while creating a positive impact locally.

The Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Malawi, Mali</th>
<th>Ethiopia</th>
<th>Niger</th>
<th>Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 606 farm families and over 1 200 women and youth empowered to effectively engage in food production and marketing activities.</td>
<td>12 000 rural smallholders, including women and youth, increased their income due to better access to inputs.</td>
<td>160 000 vulnerable households improved their agricultural productivity and food security thanks to quality input distribution and investments.</td>
<td>+ 1 500 female and male youth improved their income and access to food through decent job creation and stronger productive capacities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Eswatini</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 4 000 farm families in Ebola Virus Disease-affected communities doubled their rice and vegetable production.</td>
<td>+ 1 000 women (including Dimitra Club members) empowered through training in commercialization and value chain development, and access to credit and financial services.</td>
<td>200 000 families in conflict-affected areas enhanced their nutritional intake and 19 000 households protected their livelihoods through country-wide vaccination.</td>
<td>4 500 experts from the Southern African Development Community enhanced their capacity to tackle transboundary pests and diseases.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18 projects funded through the ASTF

41 African countries

LEVERAGING IMPACT

ASTF achievements have helped mobilize new partnerships and additional funding in Liberia (Swiss Development Cooperation), Malawi (European Union), Mali (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, UNHCR), and Niger (Norway).