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INFORMATION FOR NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE FOR DECISION MAKING (INFORMED)

FAO AND EUROPEAN UNION TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND RESILIENCE ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND

The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)

2015 estimated that a total of 795 million people in the world suffer from chronic hunger in 2012–2014. Moreover, in recent years an increasing number of people have been affected by food crises, which have grown both in frequency and in intensity. The typology of food crises has evolved from catastrophic, short-term, highly visible events to more structural, longer-term and protracted situations resulting from the combination of multiple contributing factors such as natural disasters, conflicts, financial and price crises. This has an impact on the food security status of vulnerable people whose capacity to respond is eroded by repeated shocks, or stresses. In 2011, disaster losses represented US\$264 billion globally, or twice the amount of official development assistance (ODA) the same year.



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Against this background, the concept of resilience has emerged as a viable framework for integrating humanitarian and long-term development initiatives. Given the complexity of resilience dynamics, programming needs to be supported by proper analysis in order to identify priority actions with adequate linkages across sectors. As a consequence, food and nutrition early warning information, the related systems and data analysis need to evolve to take into account both the acute and chronic nature of food crises situations.

Therefore, the programme aims at providing **technical and analytical as well as capacity development support** to relevant regional institutions and national government institutions involved in food and nutrition security, and resilience analysis for policy and programming design purposes.

The programme also provides added value to the nearly €8 billion of European Commission (EC) funds that will be dedicated to improve food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA) at country level during 2014–2020 period. The present programme investment represents less than 0.25 percent of the total EC support to this area.

WHY INFORMED?

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Huge commitment to deal in a sustainable manner with recurrent and protracted situations:

- ◆ What evidence is required?
- ◆ What are the critical areas for investments?
- ◆ Where should investments focus in terms of geographical location?
- ◆ How to improve targeting of investments?
- ◆ How to measure the extent of impact of interventions and investments?
- ◆ What capacities are required at country level?

WHAT TO ACHIEVE?

- ◆ Countries have access to quality data and information to support policy makers.
- ◆ Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) becomes the standard tool to direct food security and nutrition policy decisions.
- ◆ The resilience of vulnerable groups is supported through appropriate investments.
- ◆ The value for money of investments is properly assessed.

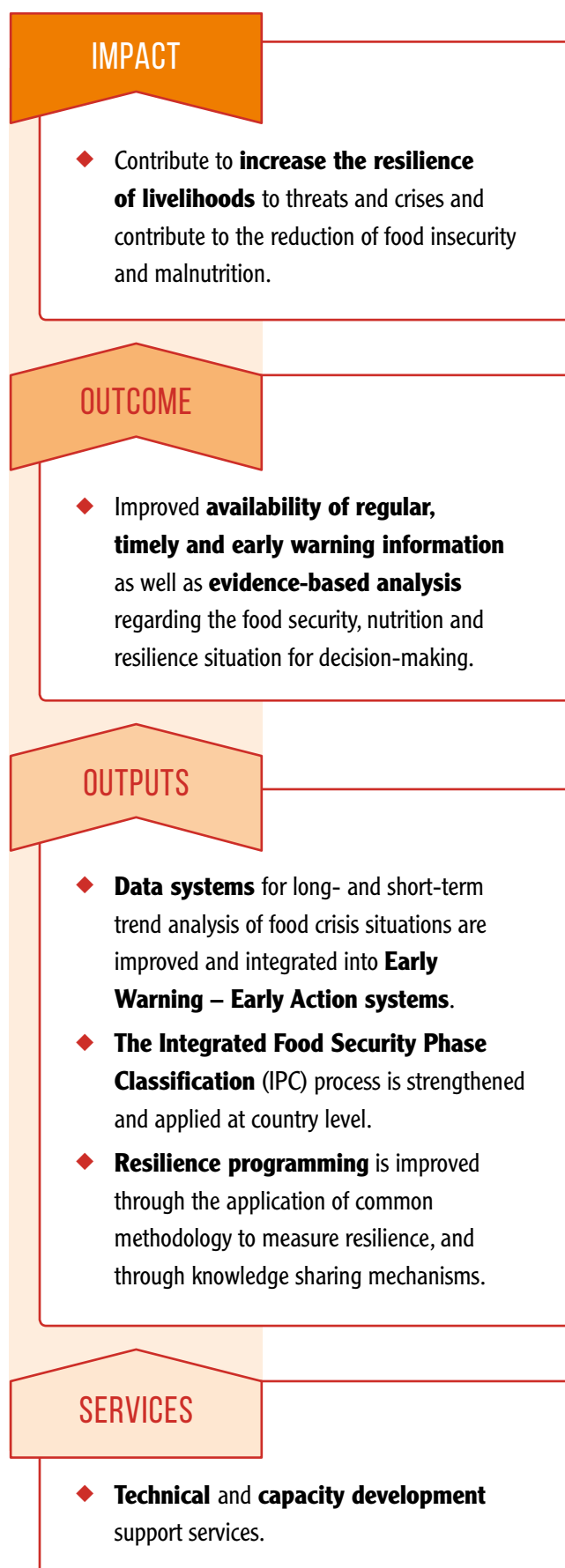
EXPECTED RESULTS

The programme is essentially designed to support the analytical work that should underpin resilience related programming to **substantially increase the resilience of vulnerable people's livelihoods to threats and crises** and contribute to the reduction of food insecurity and malnutrition.

This is to be achieved by improving **the availability of regular, timely information as well as evidence-based analysis** regarding the food security, nutrition and resilience

situation **to better support decision-making** in selected priority countries and regional organizations.

The figure below depicts the underpinning **theory of change**:





SCOPE

Countries to be supported include those countries where FNSSA has been selected as focal sector of European Union development cooperation in the period 2014–2020 and that have expressed an interest in receiving support from the present programme.

Moreover, given the strategic priority attributed by FAO and EU to the Horn of Africa and the Sahel there is an initial concentration of efforts towards the support to the Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) which prioritize the countries in their respective regions based on their strategic needs (e.g. the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative [IDDRSI] Strategy). The different components of the INFORMED programme are implemented according to the country and regional needs. Countries, as well as regional organizations could benefit from the programme.

In particular, this programme is essentially designed to support the analytical work that should underpin resilience related programming. The focus is on four main key areas for strengthening the links and related relevance between analytical and programming efforts:

- ◆ improved quality and availability of data sets underpinning food security, nutrition and resilience analysis;
- ◆ integrated food crises related information systems into one stop decision making tool to promote Early Warning – Early Action linkages;
- ◆ improved quality and harmonization of food and nutrition security analysis (e.g. IPC/CH); and
- ◆ improved resilience measurement analytical tools (e.g. RIMA) and strengthened related knowledge sharing mechanisms.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The facility is embedded within the FAO’s programme management and coordination structure. It contributes directly to the food and nutrition security monitoring and resilience analysis related results envisioned under Organization’s Strategic Objectives 5 and 1. It is managed and coordinated through a light Technical Coordination Unit. For its work at country and regional level, it works through the established FAO delivery mechanisms of Country Programming Frameworks



and where relevant Regional Initiatives. The programme represents a partnership between EU and FAO whereby the EU will take an active role in steering implementation both at country level through European Union Delegation and at global level through EC-DEVCO.

Appropriate implementation arrangements at country level are to be agreed with regional organizations, if existing, governments, and key stakeholders in order to fit in with the contextual requirements. The programme builds on current efforts such as existing partnerships, platforms, and regional bodies and institutions, in particular with the RECs that have established mechanisms to manage resilience programmes and to analyse relevant impact (e.g IDDRSI in IGAD and its Resilience Analysis Unit; the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) in CILSS and its Resilience Measurement Technical Platform). This is to ensure that the tools, guidelines and information generated by the programme are consistent with, support and add value to relevant regional initiatives. Such type of platforms are particularly relevant due to the support that they provide to their Member States which is also assured by the support of FAO as a leading partner with other key agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP and WFP.

MECHANISMS TO ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION BY PARTNERS IN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

IPC country activities will be implemented based on explicit request by the country or region. IPC National Technical Working Groups lead and produce the IPC analysis with multisector and multipartner inputs and support. This is a core principle and strategy of the roll-out of the IPC classification (Acute, Chronic and Nutrition), and institutionalization and ownership of the IPC by the government is a core pillar of the IPC Global Strategic Programme. As of today, 12 major food security organizations have joined the IPC partnership to further develop and disseminate protocols and processes for food security analysis and classification. These include NGOs (ACF International, CARE, Oxfam, and Save the Children), UN agencies, (FAO and WFP), donor-related bodies (the EC-JRC and FEWSNET), regional inter-governmental (CILSS, IGAD and SICA) and the Global Food Security Cluster (FSC).

The Resilience Measurement work is carried out in close partnership with key agencies such as WFP, UNICEF and UNDP among others. More specifically, at global level, concerning the technical development of measurement approaches and analytical tools, FAO will continue to contribute to the Resilience Measurement Technical Working Group (Food Security Information Network). Resilience analysis at regional and country levels as well as the capacity development efforts are conducted in close partnership with regional organizations such as IGAD and CILSS, and other UN agencies involved in the regional initiatives such as the Resilience Analysis Unit (e.g. WFP, UNICEF and UNDP).



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