



FAO/EU Food Facility Programme Status Report 1 October 2009



Background

The Food Facility is the EU's €1 billion response to the food crisis, targeting the transition period from emergency aid to longer-term development. Set up in close collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis it focuses on programmes that will have a quick, but lasting impact on food security.

From 2009 until 2011, activities under the Food Facility will centre on improving farmers' access to quality inputs and services; boosting agricultural production through such measures as micro-credit schemes, improved rural infrastructure and support for farmers' organisations; and providing safety nets to vulnerable groups.

These projects are embedded within government policies and strategies for food security and poverty reduction, and are in line with government programmes to address the food price crisis.

Funding

FAO is a major partner of the EC for the implementation of the Food Facility and has so far signed four Contribution Agreements with the European Commission for a total amount of €203.6 million covering projects in 25 countries (brief descriptions in Annex).

To date the delivery of the Programme has reached an amount of USD50 301 043.

Inception phase activities

Batch 1¹

Countries in Batch 1 are: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

Project Management Units have been established and core field personnel recruited in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. In remaining countries, international consultants have been fielded to guide the project inception phase.

Procurement of inputs is on-going in all countries.

Selection of implementing partners and beneficiaries is on-going in all countries.

National Steering Committees (NSCs), including representatives from the FAO, the EC Delegation, Government and key NGOs, have been established in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Congo DRC, Haiti, Liberia, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. It is expected that NSCs in remaining countries will be in place by the end of September.

Batch 2²

Countries in Batch 2 are: Burundi, Cambodia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Togo, Zambia.

Project Management Units have been established and core field personnel recruited in Kenya, Lesotho, Niger, Togo, Zambia. In remaining countries, recruitment is on-going.

Procurement of inputs is on-going in all countries targeting the 2nd planting season (September – December 2009): Guatemala, Kenya, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Niger, Sri Lanka, Togo and Zambia.

Selection of implementing partners and beneficiaries is on-going in all countries.

National Steering Committees, including representatives from the FAO, the EC Delegation, Government and key NGOs, have been established in Lesotho, Kenya, Zambia. It is expected that NSCs in remaining countries will be in place by the end of October.

¹ Countries funded under the first funding allocation approved on 30 March, 2009.

² Countries funded under the second funding allocation approved on 30 April, 2009.

Communication and Visibility

As part of the global communication strategy, an action plan for global visibility activities was prepared and was submitted to the EC on 17 September 2009. This included national communication strategies endorsed by local EC Delegations for batch 1 countries. Batch 2 national communication strategies will be submitted to Brussels by 15 October 2009.

FAO is preparing coverage in the run-up to major events, including the World Food Summit and FAO's High Level Expert Forum.

Newly launched FAO-EC partnership website (www.fao.org/europeanunion/en/) includes dedicated EUFF pages with news releases, general information and country profiles.

Events for project launches (including Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan, Mozambique, Pakistan, Haiti, Jamaica, Togo and Cambodia) are well covered in national media. Some countries, including Pakistan and Zimbabwe, are well ahead and are actively producing follow-up communication outputs, such as feature stories, news releases, TV and radio broadcasts.

Monitoring

FAO is developing the monitoring system for the FAO EUFF programme with a strong emphasis on results. The key monitoring tools will be the Project logframes, the Workplans and the Monitoring Plans. The Monitoring Strategy was presented to the EC on 1 October.

EUFF Country Activities

- **Afghanistan** support to seed industry and seed production;
- **Burkina Faso** support to rice and maize production by improving seed quality and availability;
- **Central African Republic** seed multiplication, conservation agriculture, reintegration of ex-combatants in the agricultural sector, opening of 80 input shops;
- **the Democratic Republic of the Congo** seed distribution, rehabilitation of agricultural assets, support to farmer organizations, food security information;
- **Eritrea** provision of agricultural inputs, increased livestock production, small-scale irrigation;
- **Guinea Bissau** provision of agricultural inputs, lay-out of 300 school gardens, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure;
- **Haiti** natural resource management and water storage, diversification and intensification of agriculture, aquaculture/fishing;
- **Liberia** joint programme with UN partners, capacity building of extension agents and farmers, agricultural input supply, school gardens;
- **Mozambique** quality seed production and distribution; establishment of seed production plant;
- **Pakistan** seed distribution, small-scale irrigation and water harvesting, agricultural implements/machinery for 100 farmer associations, farmer training;
- **Sierra Leone** establishment of 100 agribusiness centres;
- **Zimbabwe** provision of agricultural inputs to 150 000 vulnerable farming families.
- **Burundi**: seed distribution, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, capacity building;
- **Cambodia**: water management, agricultural and aquaculture inputs, provision of equipment and storage facilities;
- **Guatemala**: improvement of productivity of maize, increase in smallholders' investment in technology;
- **Jamaica**: strengthening of national food security programme;
- **Kenya**: increased availability of livestock and livestock products;
- **Lesotho**: input trade fairs, conservation agriculture;
- **Nepal**: distribution of agricultural inputs, farmer training;
- **Nicaragua**: support to local farmers' organisations;
- **Niger**: micro-credit, provision of agricultural inputs, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure;
- **Somalia**: distribution of agricultural inputs, rehabilitation of irrigation canals, improved market access;
- **Sri Lanka**: increased rice production, development of poultry production and horticulture, training;
- **Togo**: quality seed production and distribution; training of seed producers;
- **Zambia**: conservation agriculture, distribution of agricultural inputs.