

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS



Sub Regional Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Office West Africa / Sahel

Presentation of activities

January 2010

FAO, through its Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division (TCE), supports countries affected by natural disasters and conflicts by rapidly restoring local agricultural production and reducing the dependency on food aid. While responding to the immediate needs of the affected population, FAO also works towards sustainably building local capacities that enable communities to be more resilient to disasters. As part of the humanitarian response of the international community, FAO contributes to the restoration of livelihoods of the rural population through needs assessments, provision of agricultural inputs and technical assistance. FAO is also involved in the analysis of immediate causes and underlying causes of food insecurity, hazards forecasting and early warning of policy makers.

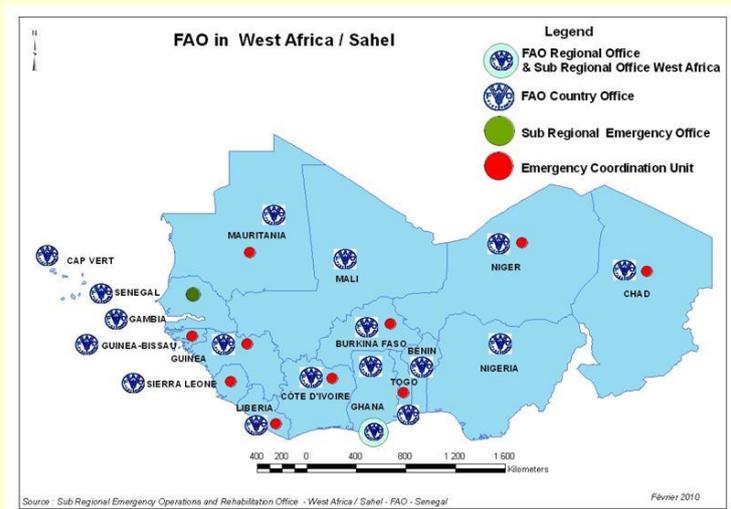


Within FAO, Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Coordination Units (ERCUs) are established in countries where interventions are necessary. The FAO's Sub Regional Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Office for West Africa / Sahel was created in Dakar in 2006 in order to coordinate its emergency interventions in the sub region with the regional offices of other UN agencies, NGOs and humanitarian donors.

The Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office liaises and exchanges information with headquarters and ERCUs in the region and analyzes the food security situation in the context of prevention and crisis management. It works in association with regional offices of other agencies of the United Nations system, NGOs, ministerial technical services and regional organizations. This network helps to provide the humanitarian community with up to date information and analysis

From coordination and food security analysis activities...

- The Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office actively participates in the Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group: the monthly meetings comprised of United Nations agencies, NGOs and donors focus on the analysis of the food security and nutrition situation (urban and rural), rising prices on agricultural markets and progress of the agriculture season. At these meetings, WFP (Regional Office) and the FAO Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office organize presentations of their joint analysis of the food security situation. FAO, through the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office, chairs the meetings in rotation with WFP, UNICEF and Oxfam. The secretariat is provided by OCHA.
- During the monthly meetings of the Regional Group Humanitarian Coordination (IASC) chaired by OCHA; FAO and WFP (Regional Office) joint presentations on the developments of food security are also shared.
- Analytical Notes on Food Security are jointly prepared by the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office and WFP (Regional Office), and shared regularly with all stakeholders.
- As part of the Consolidated Appeals United Nations (CAP) for West Africa, the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office prepares jointly with WFP and UNICEF the Food Security and Nutrition component of the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP). The Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office coordinates and consolidates the contributions of other ERCUs in the sub region for the CAP (project profiles), ensuring they are consistent with the strategies outlined in the CHAP. Under CAP 2010, FAO has proposed thirteen project profiles that include regional aspects (regional coordination, disaster preparedness, trans boundary animal diseases and emergency response funds) as well as specific activities in several of the countries in



the sub region, (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo).

- In collaboration with technical divisions of FAO based in Rome, the FAO Representations, and ERCUs in the sub region, the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office facilitates and coordinates the participation of FAO in joint evaluation missions of the agricultural production organised by the CILSS and national and regional partners. The Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office also contributes to food security and vulnerability assessments in rural and urban areas implemented by WFP and its partners in some countries.



- The Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office also participates in improving tools used in the Sahel for analyzing the vulnerability to food insecurity. Meetings held between CILSS, FAO and WFP have led to the adoption of enhancing the “Cadre Harmonisé” with elements of the “Integrated Food Security Classification” (IPC). Following these meetings, a regional working group composed of CILSS / AGRHYMET, FAO and WFP was tasked with testing the Cadre Harmonisé Bonifié (CHB). This analysis of the situation by country was done for three countries (Mauritania, Niger and Senegal). The Technical Committee of the Cadre Harmonisé recommended to continue the exercise and to ensure the initial transfer of the methodology to countries.

In Côte d'Ivoire, where no Early Warning System previously existed, the IPC is now in its fourth round since its initiation in 2007 and now provides regular food security analysis.

- As part of capacity building of Early Warning Systems in West Africa, the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office supports the organization of regional workshops to train, establish or improve relevant methodological tools. During these workshops, lessons learned from various countries experiences are shared and analyzed. The workshops also provide an opportunity to update participants regarding their food security knowledge and skills, market analysis and triggers of vulnerability.
- Collaboration between the Crop Production and Plant Protection Division of FAO (AGP) and the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office allowed the collection of relevant data regarding the agricultural calendars of the major agricultural species cultivated in the region. This database was established in order to program more quickly the distribution of appropriate seeds in response to

agricultural emergencies. The exercise was conducted through the ERCUs and FAO’s Representations in the sub region.

- The Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office is also developing a Dynamic Atlas for Senegal a mapping tool used for collecting, organizing and sharing information to better visualise food security interventions.



...to advocacy for improved nutrition...

- The Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office participates in the REACH (Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger) initiative with UNICEF, WFP and WHO. The objective of this initiative is to bring together all stakeholders in the fight against child hunger and advocate for a coherent and integrated approach to nutrition.
- FAO, through the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office, participates in and co-finances joint initiative (FAO, UNICEF, WFP, Helen Keller International (HKI) and the Micronutrient Initiative (MI)): "Restoring the right of children to adequate nutrition in the Sahel: Proposal for an analysis of the situation "(IYCN). The main goal is to compile, analyze and interpret available information on infant and child feeding practices and nutrition and health of children under two years in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad. The results of this initiative will enable stakeholders to take stock of strengths and weaknesses of mechanisms in the fight against malnutrition and make recommendations where appropriate.
- The two preceding activities are complementary to a new series on mother and infant malnutrition in The Lancet journal of which the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office took part in the organization of the launch in Dakar. These articles draw national and international attention to the essential role nutrition plays in the first months of the child's life.



.... and support to Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Coordination Units of FAO in West Africa/Sahel

In addition to their own projects, the Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Coordination Units of Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo implement the country components of several regional projects coordinated by the Sub Regional Emergency Operations Office.

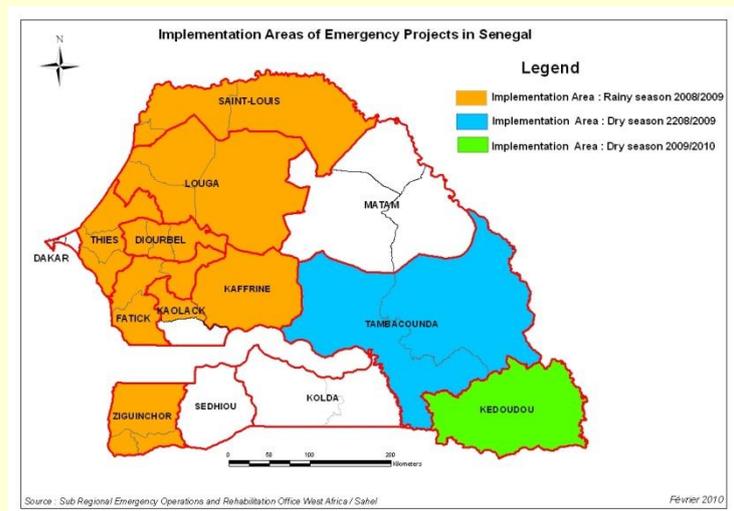
These projects are in part to improve coordination in food security interventions, as well as to restore and sustain the livelihoods of households affected by food insecurity. They are implemented according to the humanitarian needs through distribution of seeds, fertilizer, small agricultural tools, veterinary inputs or small ruminants, development of vegetable gardens and training, strengthening technical and organisational capacities.

Improving nutritional status is also supported through the promotion of school and community gardens and nutrition education sessions.



Emergencies interventions in Senegal:

As part of the Initiative against Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) and the 2007/2008 agricultural season deficit, FAO mobilized resources through cooperation with the Spanish and Swedish and its own funds to support the Government of Senegal in the restoration of the productive capacity of most vulnerable households through assistance programs: a program for the rainy season 2008/2009 in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and a program in conjunction with the Ministry of the Family, National Solidarity, Women Entrepreneurship and Micro Finance for dry season 2008/2009 season. Linking this program with the Ministry of the Family, support was provided to vulnerable populations in regions of Tambacounda and Kedougou for the rainy and dry seasons 2009/2010.



1. Rainy Season 2008:

"Assistance to vulnerable populations affected by rising grain prices and poor agricultural production in 2007-2008" (April-December 2008)

The FAO assistance was made available to vulnerable populations through the emergency projects TCP/SEN/3104, GCP/GLO/216/SPA and a contribution of regional project OSRO/RAF/705/SWE.

The regions targeted were Diourbel, Fatick Kaolack, Louga, Saint-Louis, Thiès and Ziguinchor, the most affected by soaring food prices and poor crop production in 2007-2008. The activities were conducted in collaboration with the decentralised offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, local communities, farmer organizations, NGOs and local administration. These activities have enabled the following results:

- 48 596 vulnerable households (i.e. 434 807 persons) on a target of 13000, of which 9 986 women, received 259 tons of crop seeds (souna millet, sorghum, maize, rice and cowpeas), 9.5 tons of vegetable seeds (local eggplant, peppers, watermelon and okra) and 242.5 tonnes of fertiliser (urea).
- 826 women groups have received training, strengthening technical and managerial capacities.
- 35 193 ha were sown on a target of 29 803 ha.

Monitoring and evaluation of this project has shown that beneficiaries were able to replenish their personal crop seed reserves for rainy season 2009. 97% of beneficiary households have appreciated the assistance of FAO, 87% found the seeds of good quality and 80% wished to receive additional seed quantities..



2. Dry Season 2008/2009: "Support to vulnerable women groups in the Region of Tambacounda" (October 2008-June 2009)

The objective of the Senegal component of project OSRO/RAF/803/SWE is to contribute to improving food security, nutritional status and productive capacity of vulnerable women gardening groups in the region of Tambacounda. The project provided them with vegetable seeds, fertilizers, small farming tools and fencing to increase and diversify vegetable production and to strengthen their organizational capacity and techniques. This project is part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Tambacounda (UNDAF).

162 groups of women vegetable producers or 5 647 women received 295 kg of vegetable seeds (tomato, okra, diakhatou, pepper, onion, watermelon, melon and eggplant), 25 tonnes of NPK fertilizer, 20 tons of fertiliser (urea), 1 106 items of small tools (wheelbarrows, watering cans, shovels, rakes, etc..) and 15 706 m fencing (wire netting and local materials).

As part of the training, 20 women representing their groups were trained as trainers in conservation techniques and processing vegetables

3. Rainy and Dry Season 2009-2010 "Support to rice and vegetable activities of vulnerable households in the regions of Tambacounda and Kedougou (1 April 2009 - June 30, 2010).

The objective of the component OSRO/RAF/908/SWE Senegal project is to improve food security and the productive capacity of vulnerable households in the rice producing regions of Tambacounda and Kedougou as well as vulnerable women gardening groups in the Kedougou region.

1500 vulnerable households in Tambacounda and Kedougou regions for the 2009/2010 winter season received: rice seeds (30 tons), fertilizer (DAP: 37.5 tons and Urea: 50 tons). An area of 375 ha has been sown producing 815.5 tons of paddy rice.

For the 2009/2010 dry season, 116 women's vegetable producer groups, 5 748 women, in the region Kedougou received 197 kg of vegetable seeds (tomato, okra, diakhatou, pepper, onion and cabbage), NPK fertilizer (9.2 tons), urea (4.6 tons) and 1,800 items of small equipment (watering cans, shovels, rakes, planters and trowel). The 116 groups will also receive training in Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

« Support for Strengthening the National Early Warning System for food security and nutrition monitoring in Senegal.» "Project OSRO/SEN/901/USA (April 6, 2009 to March 31, 2012).

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the national and decentralized capacity to better monitor the food security and nutrition situation of the population, and to prevent localized food and nutritional crises in order to provide timely and appropriate responses.

The specific objectives of this project are:

- Strengthening the Early Warning System (SAP) by the integration of early warning indicators and improving methodologies and data collection instruments;
- Improving the analysis and interpretation of early warning data;
- Strengthening collaboration, coordination, information and communication at all levels;
- The establishment of a decentralized permanent monitoring of food security and nutrition early warning indicators. The project is jointly implemented by FAO, WFP and UNICEF in close partnership with the National Executive Secretariat of the Food Security in Senegal.



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