



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# FAO + Belgium

Inclusive approaches to  
end hunger and  
promote prosperity





**FAO**

**+**

**Belgium**

**Inclusive approaches to  
end hunger and  
promote prosperity**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
**Rome, 2018**

Required citation:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2018. *FAO+Belgium. A report on partnership*. Rome. 50 pp.

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## Foreword by FAO Director-General

Belgium's continuous support to all areas of FAO has strengthened the Organization's work over the years, not only in fighting hunger in all its forms but to help family farmers and their communities on a path to prosperity. Belgium'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. Of the many areas where Belgium's and FAO's development visions align, the one I would like highlight most is our shared belief in agriculture's unique position as a catalyst for rural development, job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable growth.

In the last biennium Belgium has deepened its engagement with FAO in a number of notable ways, including through a new framework agreement signed in 2016, which will strengthen the partnership and reinforce collaboration between FAO and the different Belgian actors, including civil society, research centers and universities. But I also like to draw attention to Belgium's commitment to "walk the talk" of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, by being the first country to commit more than USD 15 million for multi-year programmes that help farmers caught in humanitarian crises build up their capacity to withstand future shocks. This is a notable departure from the short-cycle projects that usually follow emergencies and it underlines our shared vision for agricultural interventions that serve long-term development.

What is more, let me stress that it is in no small parts, thanks to Belgium's support, that FAO today is able to respond quicker to emergencies. The Kingdom here, too, was the first to back new flexible funding lines, such as the Special Fund for Emergency Activities, that allow FAO to start planning and procuring for life-saving interventions as soon as the first signs of a crisis emerge — often weeks before formal project funding can be secured from other donors.

Beyond innovative funding modalities, Belgium has also been a key partner to FAO in bringing digital innovation to smallholders, adapting a myriad of information technologies to connect producers in all corners of the world to the latest data on markets, weather and agricultural production, to name but a few.



It is clear that we can no longer look at food, livelihoods and the management of natural resources separately – instead, our health and prosperity are increasingly dependent on our efforts to preserve the health of our blue world, soils, and forests. That is why I am grateful for having His Royal Highness Prince Laurent of Belgium on our side as FAO Special Ambassador for Forests and the Environment, raising public awareness of the importance of the sustainable use of forests and other natural resources.

All of this leads me to see nothing but fertile ground for our growing partnership and makes me look forward to our collaboration around the 2030 Agenda, especially our shared goals to end hunger, promote prosperity and limit the effects of climate change.

**José Graziano da Silva**

## Foreword by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services of Belgium

If we were to focus entirely on the challenges in food systems we might say “the future is bleak,” but if we were to focus on all the opportunities at hand to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) we might say “the future is bright”. Global awareness about the importance of nutrition, food security and food safety has increased enormously. Where the concept of ‘nutrition’ was only used by some food experts in the past, it has been mainstreamed and adopted by agricultural experts, politicians and the like.

In 2015, the UN Sustainable Development Goals enshrined the objective of “ending all forms of malnutrition” by 2030. FAO’s work plays a key role in achieving SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger) and 17 (Global Partnerships). The FAO is internationally recognized by its peers and Member States as the leading agency and global forum in the fields of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In recent years we have seen that local governments, the private sector and farmers have woken up to the abundant opportunities of investments in the agriculture and food sector. There is huge potential for growth. New ways of financing, through public-private partnerships, are currently being rolled out. That’s why we drastically shifted the focus of our development policy towards the promotion of sustainable entrepreneurship in agriculture. From keeping farmers alive we switched to supporting farmers as entrepreneurs in society.

In 2016, Belgium and FAO signed a Framework Arrangement in order to reinforce our collaboration across both humanitarian and development assistance and at the same time to align Belgium’s strategies for sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition-related sectors with FAO’s Strategic Programmes.

The collaboration between Belgium and FAO has been fruitful during the past years. Belgium has supported the FAO’s Regular Programme budget and has allocated core contributions to the Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM). Furthermore, Belgium has contributed to the FAO Special Fund for Emergency Activities (SFERA), in the humanitarian field, and backed long-term projects in different areas such as the Dimitra Project for the empowerment of rural people.



This new document highlights the importance of partnership in order to achieve measurable results, as well as innovation, inclusion of the private sector and new ways of financing, all spear points of Belgium’s development policy.

If we want to achieve the Agenda 2030, the inclusion of the private sector and new ways of financing are key. We therefore look forward to working with FAO in resilience and food crises, sustainable agriculture, and in developing new and improved mechanisms for flexible funding.

**Alexander De Croo**

# Acknowledgements

FAO would like to express its sincere gratitude and thanks to the Belgian government entities that contributed to this partnership report. Particular thanks to the Ministry of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services of Belgium and the Embassy of Belgium in Italy for their generous support and time in producing this document.

This report was produced under the overall patronage of the Deputy Director General of Programmes Daniel Gustafson, and the guidance of Gustavo González, Director, Resource Mobilization Division (TCR). The report conceptualization and production was led by Kazuki Kitaoka, Team Leader (Marketing, Outreach and Reporting), carried out by Pablo Rabczuk, Programme Officer, Irene Pirca and Lorenzo Gentile, Outreach and Marketing Experts, and written by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans. Editorial support was further provided by Kristen Congedo. Design and layout was provided by Shereen Najjar.

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 Manuel Anta, Vanja Bozic, Rodrigo de La Puerta, Zoe Druilhe, Giulia Galbiati, Anna Trolle-Lindgren and Caroline Von Gayl for their invaluable guidance, support and inputs.

# Abbreviations

<b>AIRC</b>	Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity
<b>BIO</b>	Beglian Investment Company for Developing Countries
<b>CFS</b>	Committee on World Food Security
<b>CFW</b>	Cash-for-Work
<b>EUFGMD</b>	European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
<b>EUR</b>	Euros
<b>EWEA</b>	Early Warning Early Action
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FIES</b>	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
<b>FMM</b>	Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced People
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>IPPC</b>	International Plant Protection Convention
<b>ISIL</b>	Islamic State of the Levant
<b>ITPGRFA</b>	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
<b>OIE</b>	World Organization for Animal Health
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SFERA</b>	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>VGGT</b>	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
<b>VoH</b>	Voices of the Hungry
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

# Partnership at a glance

The partnership between FAO and Belgium has been nothing short of outstanding, allowing for successful joint work towards common development goals. By supporting FAO's Regular Programme budget through the Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM), contributing to the FAO Special Fund for Emergency Activities (SFERA) and other humanitarian aid facilities, Belgium has been a key strategic partner for FAO. This partnership echoes the priorities stated in Belgium's development cooperation policy, which are based on improving policy coherence, fostering aid effectiveness, and the right to food and social protection in developing countries, underpinned by the crosscutting principles of women's empowerment and the protection of natural resources and the environment.

In the period 2008–2017, Belgium was the 16th-largest resource partner to FAO and the 13th-largest resource partner for voluntary contributions, with EUR 144 million (USD 168 million)<sup>1</sup> in the ten-year period. During 2014–2017, more than half of the country's voluntary contributions were directed to Africa, while smaller contributions went to other regions. The majority of the approvals have supported crisis response and resilience activities. As a result, a staggering 89 percent of Belgium's funding has been directed to FAO's Strategic Objective 5 (Increase the Resilience of Livelihoods to Threats and Crises).

Collaboration over the years has enabled funding for several initiatives, including the Dimitra project, which aims at giving greater visibility and a voice to rural populations, particularly women, to provide better access to information and communication as a way out of poverty. It is important to note that since 2014, Dimitra has been funded under the FMM. Belgium was also one of the first resource partners to support FAO after the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) in May 2012. To do this, Belgium agreed in 2012 to contribute EUR 2.7 million (USD 3.2 million) over four years. More recently, in August 2016, Belgium provided EUR 5.8 million

(USD 6.9 million) for humanitarian programmes in Iraq and in the Sahel for a two-year period. Additionally, in October 2016, EUR 2.9 million (USD 3.5 million) were approved for Haiti in response to hurricane Matthew for joint activities with the World Food Programme (WFP). Reinforcing people's resilience, in particular in the Sahel, Great Lakes region and the Palestinian territories, is vital for sustainable development and FAO stands ready to coordinate and implement Belgium-funded projects where it is most needed.

Moreover, FAO applauds Belgium's development policy renewal, which brings stronger focus on humanitarian innovation and on the role of digitalization as a lever for development. This, together with the central place given to private sector engagement, is an important push to open new digital horizons for development policy. Through the Belgian Charter for the Sustainable Development Goals, Belgian companies and civil society organizations can also have an opportunity to work more intensively together. Opening up the capital of the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries (BIO) to private investors, in order to kick-start the financing of the development policy, is key to catalysing new funding for the 2030 Agenda.

Belgium is an innovative force within FAO that supports the Organization's work towards food security, economic growth, employment and income generation for resilient and sustainable development. The energy and financial resources provided to FAO are a massive contribution not only to progressing towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also to improving the way we get there, as required by the 2030 Agenda. Innovative financial platforms and private sector alignment to boost financial flows for the SDGs is fundamental. Thus, Belgium is a strategic partner for FAO, and we look forward to a closer and innovative collaboration in resilience and food crises, natural resource management, sustainable agriculture, and in developing new and improved mechanisms for flexible funding.

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<sup>1</sup> Values in euros (EUR) in this report are based on the exchange rate as of July 27, 2018 (USD 1 = EUR 0.85)

## In figures

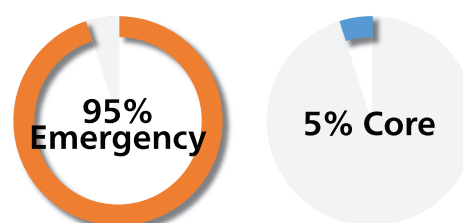
Total contributions of Belgium to FAO (assessed and voluntary) 2016-2017

**EUR 33 703 240**  
(USD 39 650 871)

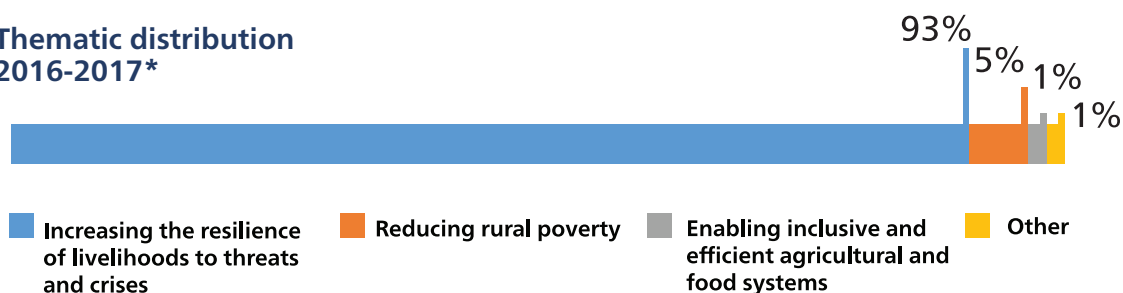
### Regional distribution 2016-2017\*



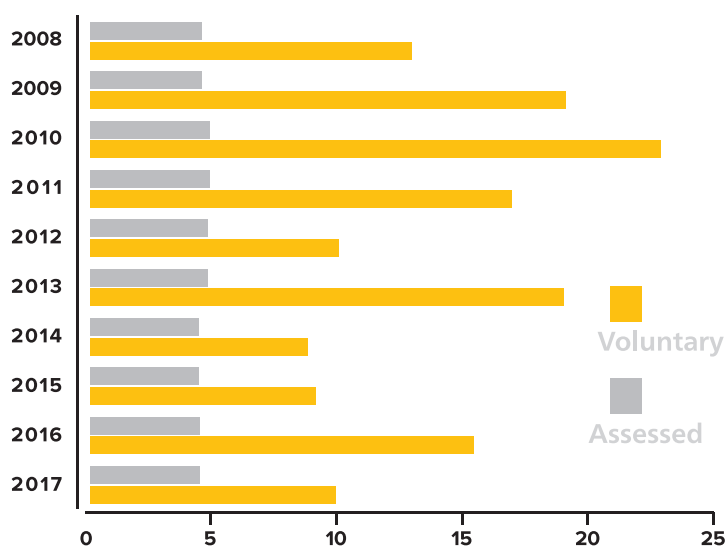
### Category distribution 2016-2017\*



### Thematic distribution 2016-2017\*



### Trend of assessed and voluntary contributions (EUR million) 2008-2017



\* This refers to voluntary contributions, based on approvals.





Ethiopia - Food distribution in the Gode wereda Dolo Baad distribution centre  
©FAO/IFAD/WFP/Michael Tewelde



# Promoting global food governance

The world's food and agricultural systems are essential to the health and well-being of every woman, man and child 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, and by 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.

One of the most tangible ways FAO contributes to the daily lives of people around the world is in developing and promoting international standards around the production and trade of food. From food labelling to the management of fish stocks and the preservation of valuable genetic heritage of plants and livestock, FAO brokers international guidelines and hosts a myriad of commissions and governing bodies that keep our food safe and our food production sustainable into the future. Facilitating trade, keeping plants and animals healthy, and ensuring that benefits are shared by all are essential parts of FAO's mission to strengthen national institutions and global food governance.

## Codex Alimentarius

Belgium is a 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. Belgium actively participates in the Codex Commission, which 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. In 2017 and 2018, Belgium co-chaired the Working Group on the International Numbering System of the 49th and 50th sessions of the Codex Committee on Food Additives.

## The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Belgium is a contracting party to the IPPC, which aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests that affect plants and plant products. The convention, governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, covers cultivated plants and natural flora alike. It also extends to vehicles, aircraft and vessels, containers, storage places, soil and other objects or materials that can harbour or spread pests. The convention encourages collaboration between various national and regional plant protection organizations to implement the rules set out in the agreement.

## 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. This helps to ensure that farmers and researchers across the globe continue to have access to the world's most important food crops and can utilize the valuable genetic traits found therein to transform the livelihoods of farming families and to contribute to more climate-resilient

food production systems. By the end of 2017, more than four million samples of genetic diversity had been exchanged through the system. Belgium is currently exploring the feasibility of establishing a global safety back-up cryopreservation facility for vegetatively propagated crops and crops with recalcitrant seeds, to be hosted under the auspices of the Treaty.

FAO remains a leading forum for countries to address the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for agriculture, including both plant and livestock genetics. In this context, Belgian experts and plant breeders participated in the International Workshop on Community Seed Banks hosted by FAO in October 2017, which resulted in a global exchange of experiences between community seed banks in the global south and those in the global west. Furthermore, flagship reports by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, also hosted by FAO, 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. A party to the Treaty, Belgium contributes to its work both financially and through other forms of support.



Jordan - National project coordinator observing plant growth and insect behavior to better manage crops and pesticide use  
©FAO



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

Belgium is a major supporter of the VGGT, which 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 the Kingdom, have recognized these first-ever global tenure guidelines – 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.

In 2012, Belgium initially contributed EUR 1.5 million (USD 1.8 million) to the VGGT multidonor trust fund together with Italy, Switzerland, Sweden and France. Synergies from this project encouraged a further contribution of EUR 2.2 million (USD 2.6 million) through the FMM, which proposed to build on activities successfully implemented in the first phase, including to improve capacities of governments and stakeholders for developing sectoral and cross-sectoral policy frameworks and investment plans.

Belgium is one of the largest backers of a multiyear project that supports the implementation of the VGGT



Thailand- Terraced rice fields on the island of Bali  
© FAO/Adi Wiratmo

in 70 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. During the last biennium, these funds allowed FAO to work with national and regional partners to increase the capacities of civil society and grassroots organizations to implement the VGGT in Colombia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Liberia, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Tanzania and Uganda. Mali and Mauritania, meanwhile, received support in establishing effective national platforms of diverse actors who can together translate the Voluntary Guidelines into a system of people-centred land governance in their country. As a result, international, national and local actors learned to integrate and actively apply the new tenure principles in their local context.

## Preventing the spread of animal diseases

Animal health is another important area of joint support. FAO hosts the European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD), through which several Belgian veterinarians have been trained on FMD. Belgium, in turn, hosts a number of FAO Reference Centres for animal health, which provide specific, independent scientific advice on issues related to FAO's activities. Finally, FAO works closely with the Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain in the context of the avian flu and is participating in the dialogue with FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for the control of transboundary animal diseases.



Ethiopia – FAO officer supporting animal fodder and restocking  
© FAO/IFAD/WFP/Michael Tewelde





Vietnam- A farmer from an ethnic minority group in Dak Lak  
©CIAT



# Pathways for sustainable development: FMM

In a world where 815 million people are still chronically hungry and one in three suffers from malnutrition, ensuring access to enough quality food for a growing global population remains one of the world's biggest challenges. That is made more difficult by increasing water and land scarcity, the degradation of natural resources, and ever-more frequent and severe weather events. It is clearer than ever that if we are to build a healthy, food-secure future, it must be through a multitude of strategies with an eye on preserving natural resources, creating rural jobs, and reducing farmers' vulnerability to climate changes and other shocks. At the same time, we need to find sustainable ways to unleash the full potential of our productive resources, including our soils and blue world.

Belgium and FAO have been working at this intersection through a myriad of projects that merge new and traditional knowledge to find the best solutions for smallholder farmers in their local contexts. These project funds have been channelled through FAO's FMM, which has allowed FAO to try new ways of working, collaborate across sectors both

within the Organization and outside, and reap the benefits of complementary initiatives. With a contribution of close to EUR 12 million (USD 14 million) to the FMM, between 2014 and 2017, Belgium assisted FAO in investing in rural services, information infrastructure and opportunities that can unleash virtuous cycles of development, by improving diets, incomes and stability. Moreover, Belgium-funded projects are ensuring that these development efforts are responsive to the needs and realities of local rural communities and improve the position of women within the latter. From Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to the Central America's Dry Corridor, Belgium's support has enabled FAO to bring together farmers, governments and the private sector to build holistic solutions that serve people, producers and the planet.

# Measuring food insecurity through people's experiences – The Voices of the Hungry project



## Contribution

**EUR 2 million  
(USD 2.4 million)**



## Beneficiaries:

**Policy-makers at  
country level**



## Location:

**Global**



## Duration:

**2013–2018**



## Results:

**More than 140  
participating countries**

**27 workshops or capacity  
development activities  
organized in Africa,  
Asia, the Near East and  
Latin America and the  
Caribbean to sensitize  
governments on inclusion  
of FIES in national surveys**

**Workshops attended  
by more than 660  
participants from more  
than 80 countries'  
national staff and  
organizations**

**29 countries have already  
included the FIES survey  
module in their national  
survey**

The Voices of the Hungry (VoH) project was launched in late 2013 in an effort to provide all countries with up-to-date food security information that is policy-relevant and actionable. With support from Belgium through the FMM, FAO developed and tested the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), a survey module that provides timely information about the adequacy of people's access to food by asking them directly about their experiences through eight simple questions. Belgium's contribution supported efforts to test, refine and apply the FIES survey module worldwide and promote its adoption by national and international institutions.

FIES represents a key innovation compared to existing food security metrics and indicators. This stems mostly from the fact that it measures people's food insecurity directly – rather than through such determinants as poverty and social exclusion, or through consequences like poor diets and nutritional status. When used together with other measures of food insecurity, FIES provides the necessary link to better understand the many causes and potential effects of food insecurity and to find solutions. In 2017, FIES data were collected in more than 140 countries.

The last biennium saw a rapid increase in collaboration with key development partners and member countries. This includes the World Bank and WFP, which integrated the methodology in several country-level surveys. The German Agency for International Cooperation used the FIES to monitor projects in several African and Asian countries. The World Bank's Global Agriculture Food Security Programme and the USAID Feed the Future Initiative, meanwhile, are using FIES in their monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

The VoH project is now in phase 2 of its implementation, which focuses on capacity development and advocacy. Here, too, demand from country governments has been growing quickly. Substantial efforts were made already by reaching more than 80 countries and six regional Institutions participating in capacity development activities. At country level, as of early 2018, 29 countries have included the FIES survey module in their national surveys, and plans are in place to include it in 22 more national surveys. A comprehensive set of e-learning materials was developed to support data officers and policy-makers in using the methodology.

## FIES and the Sustainable Development Goals

With ambitious goals and targets for 2030, access to timely, accurate and meaningful information is critical for monitoring global progress towards securing adequate food for all. The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on FIES, has been adopted as an indicator for Target 2.1 of the SDGs. This means FIES-based indicators will serve to track global, regional and national changes in food insecurity, providing information for international and national-level policy-making.



Ethiopia – Child drinking milk from local farm  
©FAO/IFAD/WFP/Michael Tewelde



## Empowering rural communities across Africa: Social mobilization through Dimitra Clubs



### Contribution

**EUR 3 million**  
(USD 3.57 million)



### Beneficiaries:

**2 million rural men,  
women and youth**



### Location:

**Burundi, Central African  
Republic, Democratic  
Republic of Congo,  
Ghana, Mali, Niger and  
Senegal**



### Duration:

**2014–2018**



### Results:

**3 000 Dimitra Clubs  
established**

**90 000 members enrolled**

**2/3 of Clubs' members  
are women**

**2 million rural people  
positively impacted**

For rural transformation to be truly inclusive, gender-responsive and sustainable, communities need to play a major role in the development process. Recognizing that participatory communication is key for making this possible, Belgium, through the FMM, has assisted FAO in developing and scaling up the Dimitra Clubs' approach in seven countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Dimitra Clubs are informal groups of rural men, women and youth who decide to self-organize on a voluntary basis to tackle and resolve common problems in their communities with their own resources. They are often created in remote villages with limited access to services, resources and socio-economic opportunities and in protracted crisis situations.

This gender-transformative approach was developed by FAO to facilitate a community-driven process by which rural men and women get empowered and take action themselves to improve their livelihoods. It is based on the active participation of the rural poor, with particular focus on women and youth, and it promotes agency, women's leadership, gender equality and community mobilization. Since the process is endogenous, with people taking their development into their own hands, ownership and sustainability are guaranteed.

Concrete results have been achieved in various areas, including food security and nutrition, climate-adapted agricultural practices, social and economic empowerment, social cohesion, resilience, peace building, sanitation, strengthening of community organizations. Evidence shows that the approach has led to changes in behaviours related to gender-discriminatory norms, gender roles and relations, and gender-based violence.

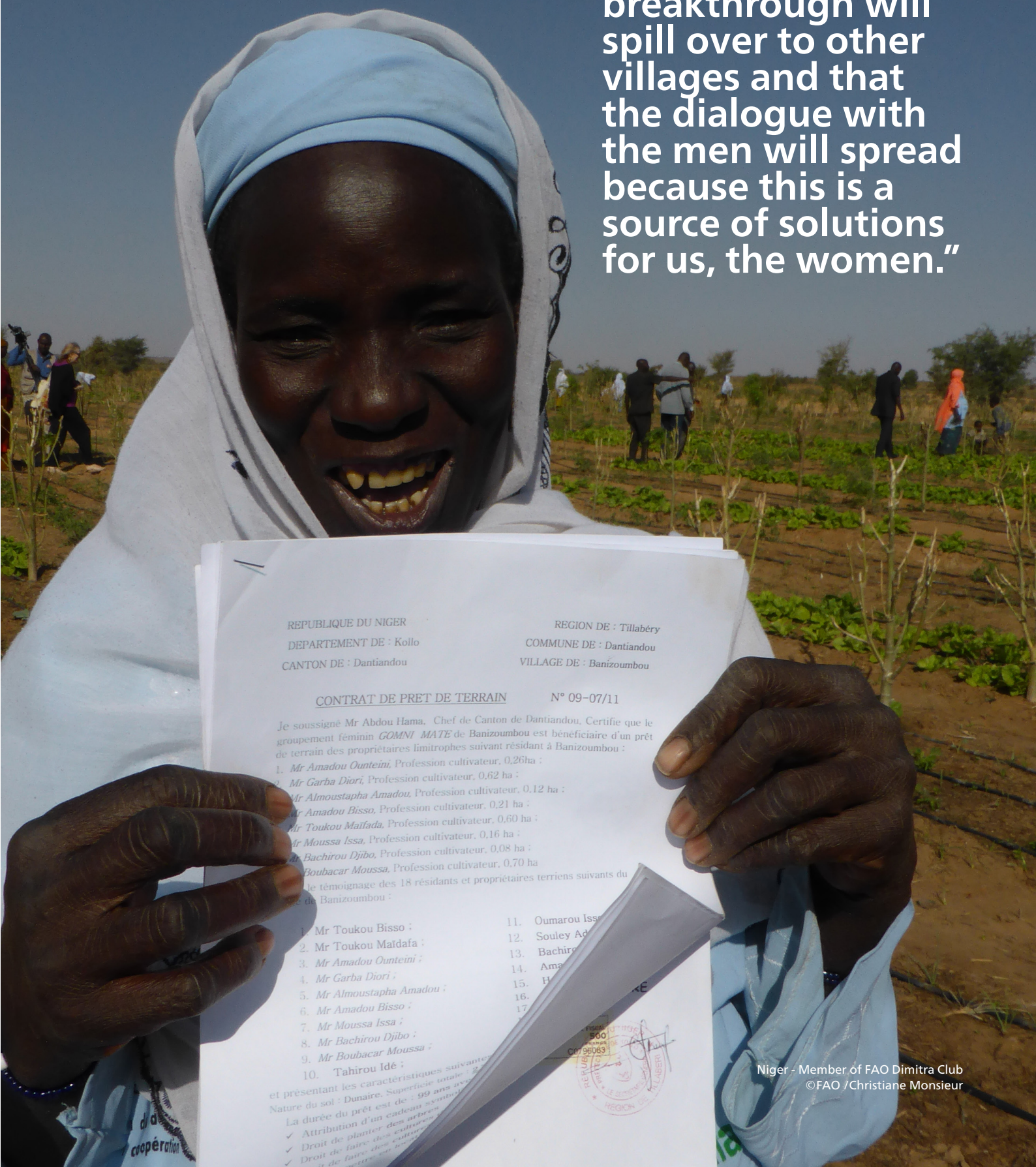
Above all, the Dimitra Clubs are a powerful tool to bring forward the needs, ideas and opinions of rural people into development planning processes. They have proved to be a key driver for the rural poor and the most marginalized (women and youth included) to enhance their capacity for collective action, make their voices heard, participate in decision-making processes and influence policies that affect them. What is more, the Dimitra Clubs partner with the community radio stations so that their experiences and discussions are broadcast, becoming a source of inspiration for other clubs and villages. The clubs receive a wind-up solar-powered radio set and a mobile phone to improve access to information and communication with the radio stations and other stakeholders.

Today, there are over 3 000 Dimitra Clubs, accounting for 90 000 members across sub-Saharan Africa (two-thirds of them are women), which positively impact more than two million people. Based on these successes, a growing number of countries have been requesting support to implement or expand the Dimitra Clubs' model. Up to now, Belgium's contribution has made this innovative experience possible in several countries, such as Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Senegal. Thanks to the tangible results achieved, the approach is increasingly used in country programmes and recognized as a FAO flagship model contributing to people's empowerment and gender equality.



A female member of a Dimitra Club in Niger:

"I hope that today's breakthrough will spill over to other villages and that the dialogue with the men will spread because this is a source of solutions for us, the women."



REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER  
DEPARTEMENT DE : Kollo  
CANTON DE : Dantiandou

REGION DE : Tillabéry  
COMMUNE DE : Dantiandou  
VILLAGE DE : Banizoumbou

CONTRAT DE PRET DE TERRAIN

N° 09-07/11

Je soussigné Mr Abdou Hama, Chef de Canton de Dantiandou, Certifie que le groupement féminin GOMNI MATE de Banizoumbou est bénéficiaire d'un prêt de terrain des propriétaires limitrophes suivant résidant à Banizoumbou :

1. Mr Amadou Ounteini, Profession cultivateur, 0,26ha ;
2. Mr Garba Diori, Profession cultivateur, 0,62 ha ;
3. Mr Almoustapha Amadou, Profession cultivateur, 0,12 ha ;
4. Mr Amadou Bisso, Profession cultivateur, 0,21 ha ;
5. Mr Toukou Malfada, Profession cultivateur, 0,60 ha ;
6. Mr Moussa Issa, Profession cultivateur, 0,16 ha ;
7. Mr Bachirou Djibo, Profession cultivateur, 0,08 ha ;
8. Boubacar Moussa, Profession cultivateur, 0,70 ha

Je témoigne des 18 résidents et propriétaires terriens suivants du village de Banizoumbou :

1. Mr Toukou Bisso ;
2. Mr Toukou Malfada ;
3. Mr Amadou Ounteini ;
4. Mr Garba Diori ;
5. Mr Almoustapha Amadou ;
6. Mr Amadou Bisso ;
7. Mr Moussa Issa ;
8. Mr Bachirou Djibo ;
9. Mr Boubacar Moussa ;
10. Tahirou Idé ;

11. Oumarou Issa ;
12. Souley Adama ;
13. Bachirou ;
14. Amadou ;
15. Hama ;
16. ;
17. ;

et présentant les caractéristiques suivantes  
Nature du sol : Dunaire, Superficie totale : 2,5 ha  
La durée du prêt est de : 99 ans renouvelable

- ✓ Attribution d'un cadeau symbolique
- ✓ Droit de planter des arbres
- ✓ Droit de faire des cultures
- ✓ Droit de faire des cultures





## Finding innovative solutions to persistent problems – climate-smart agroforestry in Central America's Dry Corridor



### Contribution

**EUR 425 000  
(USD 500 000)**



### Beneficiaries:

**More than 885 families**



### Location:

**Guatemala and  
Honduras**



### Duration:

**2014–2018**



### Results:

**57 new hectares under  
agroforestry management**

**25 water harvesting tanks  
established**

**250 eco-stoves established**

**162 families acquired  
capacities in efficient use of  
water**

**Network of 25 volunteers  
established for promotion  
of climate-smart agriculture**

**5 workshops conducted  
to reinforce 62 families'  
capacities for cash crops**

**70% of project beneficiaries  
were women**

**A study on Quesungual and  
Kuxur Rum agroforestry  
systems published**

Central America's dry corridor is an area plagued by frequent drought, made worse by the El Niño phenomenon that is been hitting the region hard in recent years. On the other side, the area is prone to excessive rains that often cause severe flooding and damage agricultural production. More than 1 million families here rely on subsistence farming, which means their health and wellbeing is directly linked to the productivity of their land. The levels of poverty and malnutrition in the region are alarming and mainly affect rural populations and indigenous communities. Soil quality here tends to be poor, both because of the climate and owing to years of unsustainable farming techniques. This means farmers are often forced to abandon lands after a few years and start over on a new plot.

Guatemala and Honduras are at the heart of the corridor and therefore, among the countries most in need of support to improve their production even under adverse conditions, if they are to increase their food security and nutrition. To this end, FAO, backed by Belgium through the FMM, has been working with family farmers, farmer associations and local institutions in the field of agriculture and nutrition to increase soil health through agro-forestry. Showing that innovation can come from a return to ancient practices, FAO has been promoting indigenous Kuxur rum and Quesungual farming systems, both of which promote tree growth amid crop fields and discourage slash-and-burn harvesting, which is widely practiced in these parts. Evidence suggests that implementing these ages-old practices almost doubles the yields of maize, beans, sorghum and coffee. A lot of that success comes from increasing the humidity and fluffiness of the soil, which also makes it easier for crops to access the rich biomass of the forest growing below.

The idea is simple: for every hectare of land, a specific number of trees are planted interspersed, which provide additional yields of fruit and firewood. Existing trees and shrubs around the farm are also kept. Together, their roots break up the soil on the farm, allowing water and air to penetrate. Likewise, after corn and maize are harvested, farmers no longer burn the stems but leave them so water can enter the soil. This boosts soil humidity levels and, as a bonus, increases the carbon sequestration taking place in the soil, which means fewer CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from farming. It also limits ground erosion whenever heavy rains hit. Most importantly, it puts an end to migratory agriculture, since it does not degrade the farmland and, instead, increases yields. This means more food to eat, trade, sell, and store for a rainy day, which translates into more stability and resilience in trying times.

## Combating drought with innovative agricultural practices

Roberto lives in the community of Yuculimay Arriba, in Orocuina, a little municipality located in Southern Honduras, in the middle of Central America's Dry Corridor. The soil on his farm is highly degraded, the forest has disappeared, and rainfall is scarce and erratic. The recent droughts have highly affected his nine-member family. They own a 2-hectare plot where they grow beans and corn and also have a small garden with some plants such as lemongrass and aloe, as well as fruits, especially mango and lemon. Most of their income came from selling their fruits, since the production of maize and beans was not enough to feed the family during the whole year. They also had to sell their chickens and eggs to earn enough income and buy the grains they needed to eat.

Roberto was selected by the community group and by the municipality to participate in the agroforestry project. Along with his family,

he participated in the trainings offered on sustainable agriculture, with emphasis on integrated crop management, establishment and management of orchards, preparation of organic fertilizer, preparation of insecticides and botanical fungicides, construction of water harvesting reservoirs, installation and management of irrigation systems, management of agroforestry systems and protection of watersheds. The project provided Roberto and his family with fruit trees, orchard seeds, a small irrigation system, a reservoir that stores 8.5 m<sup>3</sup> of water, and training in the implementation and management of agroforestry systems that have facilitated the production of food for his family.

Thanks to the project, Roberto and his family have become the leaders in their community in the implementation of an agroforestry plot, combining mango and lemon trees with basic grains, and have also established small plots of vegetables such as cassava, squash, sweet potato and allotted beans, all of which are irrigated with water from the reservoir. Now he is confident that when all the trees bear fruit he will have a good income for the well-being of his family.



Guatemala - Tomato harvest in the Dry Corridor  
©FAO

## Getting closer to rural farmers by using digital technologies

Digital services are changing the way farmers around the world do business. Information and communications technologies (ICTs) facilitate access to markets, information and entrepreneurship opportunities, among other things.

FAO and its partners are involved in the development and implementation of digital inclusion initiatives and the scaling up of innovative digital services. Bringing solutions closer to the needs of poor households in Africa and other regions is a direct contribution to poverty reduction and food security. ICTs help maximize the impact of existing rural advisory services, financial services and social protection programmes, and they facilitate access to markets, information and entrepreneurship opportunities. Digital inclusion initiatives address the barriers to mobile internet adoption through infrastructure and policy, affordability, digital literacy and availability of local content.

With the support of Belgium through the FMM, FAO is developing a portfolio of mobile applications that will make useful data – such as weather information and market prices, among others – easily accessible to the rural poor, while leveraging the knowledge of FAO and its partners in the mobile world.

The applications will be developed initially for use in two countries in sub-Saharan Africa: Senegal and Rwanda. The apps and services can then be adapted for use in other countries as well. A particular emphasis will be put on the needs of young, self-employed entrepreneurs and female-headed households, breaking down the barriers for access and use of information through digital technologies. This project is part of a broader initiative that leverages the knowledge of FAO and its strategic partners in the mobile world, promoting digital inclusion for smallholders and family farmers.





Philippines - A team of experts from the Department of Agriculture gathers visual data on recently damaged rice crops  
©FAO/Veejay Villafranca



## Blue Growth initiative: Building stronger, more sustainable production systems



### Contribution

**EUR 1.6 million  
(USD 1.8 million)**



### Beneficiaries:

**Resource users, coastal communities and key staff at national ministries and public institutions**



### Location:

**Bangladesh, Barbados, Cabo Verde, Kenya, Kiribati, the Philippines, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia and Vietnam**



### Duration:

**2014–2018**



### Results:

**Raised awareness and improved understanding of Blue Growth as a strategic development approach**

**Promoted coordination across national fisheries and aquaculture institutions**

**National stakeholders encouraged to identify investment priorities and increase innovation in the sector**

**Catalysed further investment in Blue Growth activities through international financial institutions**

Oceans play an increasing role in international efforts to alleviate poverty and improve food security. Unleashing the full potential of the world's oceans requires responsible and sustainable approaches to their economic development. Since 2014, the FAO Blue Growth Initiative has supported countries and coastal communities to improve the governance of sectors reliant on aquatic resources. FAO's Blue Growth approach helps countries to transform fisheries and aquaculture production systems, and adopt new practices to improve food security, incomes and livelihoods, while ensuring the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems by integrating efficient resource use into the policy- and decision-making process. Several coastal states and SIDS have been vanguards in harnessing the Blue Growth concept as a way to balance sustainable economic development and conservation of aquatic resources.

With Belgium's contribution through the FMM, FAO has been implementing a four-year project in ten countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. More specifically, the project has supported the training of community members, resource users and key staff at ministries and public institutions in Bangladesh, Barbados, Cabo Verde, Kenya, Kiribati, the Philippines, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia and Vietnam. In addition to building capacity in these ten countries, FMM funds have been used to raise awareness of the transformational potential of Blue Growth in Côte d'Ivoire, Grenada, Madagascar, Morocco, and São Tomé and Príncipe, resulting in subsequent Blue Growth investments in several of these countries.

During the 2016–2017 biennium, these resources helped to raise awareness among local partners and national authorities on the potential of Blue Growth as a development strategy, including the necessary enabling conditions to support the transition. These include institutional reforms to promote greater coordination across ministries and public institutions charged with fisheries and aquaculture, the environment and finance. National stakeholders were encouraged to identify investment priorities and innovative solutions to support the transition of their marine-based economies towards a Blue Economy. Seaweed farming, aquaponics, mangrove preservation and sustainable aquaculture were key areas of intervention, and FAO collaborated with policy-makers and other local actors to increase efficiency and strengthen value chains with the ultimate goal of increasing economic benefits for coastal communities through sustainable resource use.

One direct result of Belgium's contribution is that several countries were able to work with FAO to access African Development Bank funds to help generate further investment and develop a portfolio of "bankable" Blue Growth projects. As part of the African Package for Climate-Resilient Ocean Economies, FAO is providing technical assistance through funding from the African Development Bank and the World Bank to capitalize on opportunities for funding through other international financial institutions such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.

## Partnering for more nutritious and inclusive value chains in SIDS

Under the FMM umbrella, Belgium and FAO have enhanced pro-poor, nutrition-sensitive food systems in the Pacific SIDS as a strategy to end poverty and hunger. The 18-month project, which started in November 2016, was designed to help SIDS implement the SAMOA Pathway, an action plan that outlines actions to counteract the adverse impacts that climate change and sea-level rise have on SIDS' ability to achieve sustainable development. The plan, which addresses economic development, food security, disaster risk reduction and ocean management, among other issues, calls for increased support and investments to assist small island states in these efforts.

A key component of the SIDS value chain initiative is generating and disseminating knowledge about nutrition, and training actors in the food system on how they can contribute to more effective nutrition-sensitive value chains. For instance, trainings in 2017 focused on planning and implementing contract farming operations in Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Fiji that brought together close to 150 farmers, extension workers and private business representatives from agribusiness firms.

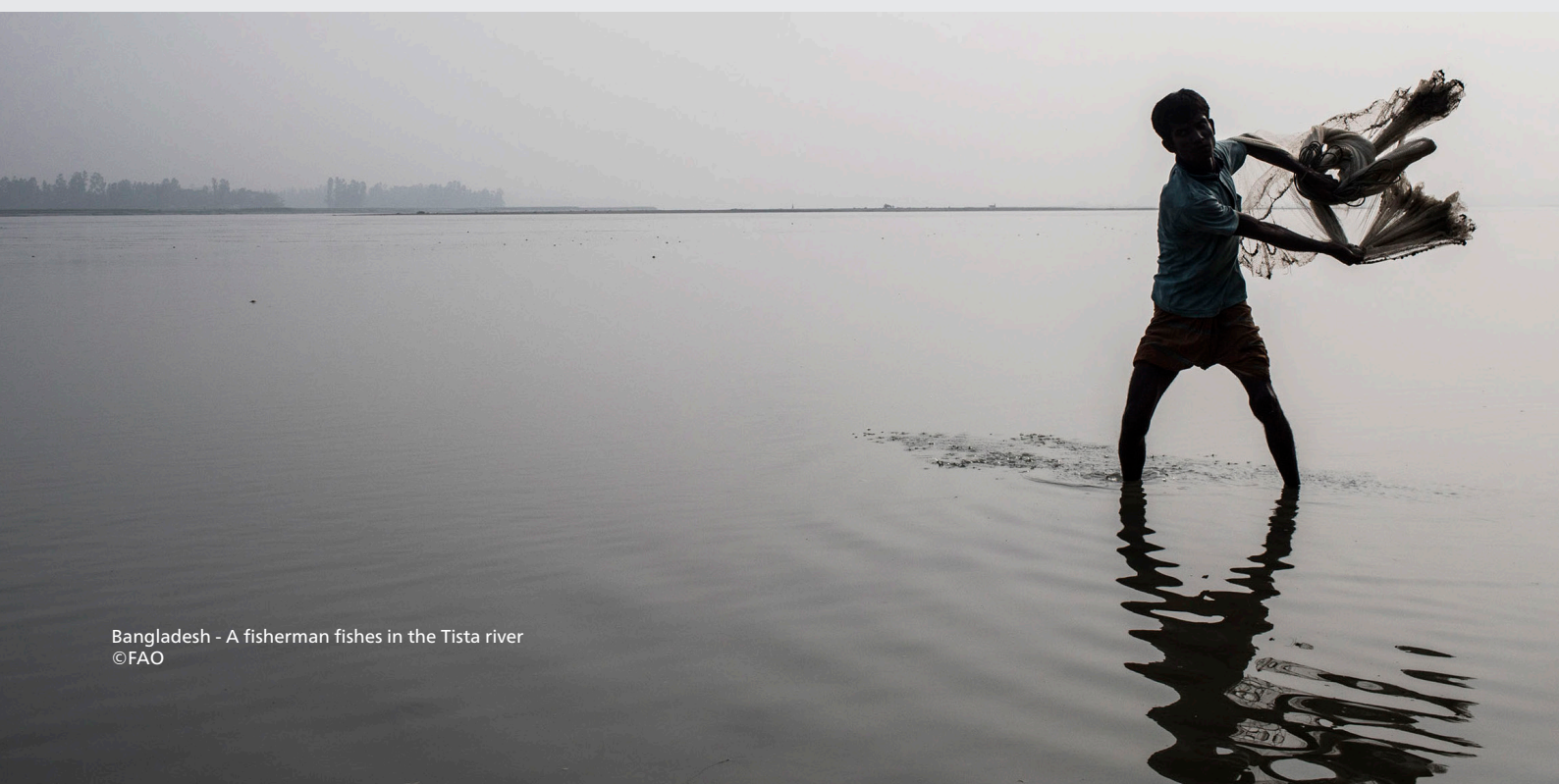
Also, healthy food baskets were estimated for Palau, Samoa and Solomon Islands and available for use.

The Pacific and Global Breadfruit Summit that FAO organized in Samoa in 2017 with support from Belgium presented an opportunity for small island nations to deliberate on the different stages of the breadfruit chain, from primary production to post-harvest, and share their knowledge about different technologies and ways to add value to food products through processing.

To track how these efforts to build better value chains contribute to food security and poverty reduction, FAO has also invested in boosting the capacities of national institutions to generate better agricultural statistics and make decisions based on sound data.

To this end, staff of national statistics offices and agriculture ministries from ten countries in the Pacific participated in workshops that helped them calculate national indicators related to food security, which will support the countries in measuring their progress towards the SDGs.

As a pillar of this work, FAO supports countries in conducting national agriculture censuses, which are a key data source for practitioners and policy makers.







Central African Republic - A farmer standing in an improved cassava field  
©FAO



# Investing in resilience and early action

Belgium has played a critical role in enabling FAO to invest in building more resilient livelihoods in protracted crises, including through cash-based initiatives, the increased provision of multiyear funding and by supporting greater collaboration among UN agencies on the ground, particularly the Rome-based agencies.

The number of people facing acute hunger is steadily rising, driven by human-induced, natural and food chain crises. According to the 2018 Global Report on Food Crises, some 124 million people in 51 countries experienced acute hunger in 2017 – up from 108 million in 48 countries in 2016 and from 80 million in 2015. Acute hunger has a strong rural dimension – up to 80 percent of those at risk of severe hunger rely on crop production, fishing, livestock and forests for their survival. Rural people need urgent assistance to simultaneously purchase and produce food. At the same time, maintaining food production and rebuilding the agriculture sector are critical to prevent loss of life from severe hunger, to maintain sources of food and income and to provide a pathway towards resilience in the midst of crises and beyond. FAO helps people to strengthen their agricultural livelihoods so that they can withstand crises.

Belgium has been a champion of FAO's work in humanitarian contexts, recognizing that aid incorporates much more than just emergency response, but also includes disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, contributing to more resilient livelihoods in the long term. In line with its commitments under the Grand Bargain, Belgium has been a pioneer in flexible funding that has enabled FAO to take early action in response to early signs of impending crises, to prepare for future crises and to react quickly when disasters strike. Like no other partner, Belgium has increased FAO's capacity to respond faster and earlier to emergencies through its matchless support to FAO's SFERA, which provides flexible funding to act when needs arise. Increasingly, FAO is working at the humanitarian–development–peace nexus, undertaking emergency interventions that not only save lives and livelihoods but also contribute to sustaining peace and meeting larger development objectives.

Throughout the last biennium, Belgium also contributed to the implementation of FAO regular emergency and rehabilitation projects and programmes in the Central African Republic and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Such projects will increase the availability of food and sustainable access to nutritious food by conflict-affected populations, especially women-dependent households.

## 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 working at 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, Belgium’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, focused on promoting resilience of vulnerable communities and livelihoods, is the most effective way to break the cycle of vulnerability and achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.





Kenya - A mother and her daughter wait with their goats during the destocking programme that FAO and Red Cross Kenya are developing as part of the Central Emergency Response to Drought



## Rehabilitating productive infrastructure in Iraq through Cash-for-work programmes



### Contribution

**EUR 1.9 million  
(USD 2.3 million)**



### Beneficiaries:

**13 000 people**



### Location:

**Salah Al Din, Anbar  
and Nineveh  
governorates; Iraq**



### Duration:

**2016–2018**



### Results:

**1 330 vulnerable  
returnee families  
received CFW**

**528 hectares of  
agriculture land and  
orchards rehabilitated**

**Women engaged in 309  
home gardens through  
CFW**

**More than 150 villages  
provided with water**

**70 km of irrigation  
canals cleaned**

**7 km of road repaired**

**7 km of water drainage  
systems rehabilitated**

Some 13 000 people in farming areas surrounding Nineveh, Kirkuk, Anbar and Salah Al Din have been able to restart and revive agriculture and food production, and to earn an income again for the first time since the Islamic State of the Levant (ISIL) took parts of the area in 2014, thanks to a FAO project that restored irrigation infrastructure to 250 000 hectares of farmland in the four governorates.

Farmers in northern Iraq used to export vegetables and crops to neighboring countries and supply millions of people at home. But under ISIL, they had not been able to grow much or anything at all, after armed groups destroyed the irrigation canals and contaminated the area with explosive devices. Now, with the help of FAO and its partners, including a contribution from Belgium, water is flowing again and helping communities to kick-start production.

Belgium's contribution to the Cash-for-Work (CFW) component of the project assisted 1 330 vulnerable returnee families who were in need of money for daily necessities, including food and clothes, heating and transport. At the time the project started in 2016, many of them had not had paid employment for at least two years.

Moreover, CFW participants also cleared the main irrigation canals, sub-canals and tributaries, and removed dirt, stones and debris, allowing the system to start irrigating the farming landscape again and earning USD 500 in the process. In all, 70 km of irrigation canals were cleaned and repaired under the project, feeding water to more than 150 villages. Furthermore, in Kirkuk, Nineveh and Anbar, workers rehabilitated 528 hectares of agricultural land and orchards, as well as 309 home gardens engaging women in CFW, while also repairing 7 km of road that connect farms to markets, which reduced transportation costs for farmers in six adjacent villages. Finally, another 7 km worth of water drainage systems were also rehabilitated.

### Involving women

Close to 309 women participated in these activities in Kirkuk, Nineveh and Anbar governorates, including by cleaning and preparing the land for home gardens that allowed them to grow and sell vegetables and improve the nutrition of their families. The project engaged local communities by setting up village committees, which included women and men, for the selection of beneficiary households and to identify activities that would be culturally appropriate for each gender, so women-headed households could benefit from the CFW programme.

A number of women who participated in the project said they took pride in helping to reconstruct communal infrastructures and felt a sense of responsibility for reviving their localities. The income they earned was mainly spent on children's clothing and other household necessities.





Iraq – FAO beneficiaries clean the main Al Jazeera irrigation canal as part of a project to resupply water for agricultural production



## Building resilience in communities affected by recurring natural hazards in Mali and Burkina Faso



### Contribution

EUR 3.8 million  
(USD 4.5 million)



### Beneficiaries:

25 000 vulnerable  
farmer communities



### Location:

Mali and Burkina Faso



### Duration:

2016-2018

With Belgian backing, FAO has been working with communities, governments and NGOs in Burkina Faso and Mali to boost the resilience of vulnerable people, so they will be better equipped to handle frequently occurring natural hazards.

In the Sahel, weather fluctuations and recurrent shocks, particularly droughts, affect the food and nutrition security of millions of people living below the poverty line. In rural areas, access to food is an ongoing challenge and, as a result, people in these areas spend more than half of their income to feed their families. When crisis strikes, these households tend to quickly exhaust their meagre resources and are then unable to replenish their assets, which leaves them increasingly vulnerable when similar events take place in the future.

FAO intervened through the *Caisses de Résilience* approach, which supports families on three fronts at the same time. For one, farmers get a chance to build their productive assets with drought resistant rainfed seeds, vegetable seeds, small ruminants and related training activities. Secondly, they get access to financial means. This includes unconditional cash transfers they can use to cover immediate needs during the lean season. FAO also boosts access to financing on a longer-term basis by helping communities establish Village Savings and Loan Associations that can provide credit to farmers who want to further invest in their production in the future. Finally, the approach supports social cohesion through shared activities. In the case of Burkina Faso and Mali, this included sensitizing villages on balanced nutrition and encouraging the establishment of solidarity funds within the new village loan schemes. Those funds then serve as insurance that communities can draw on when shocks strike in the future.

**Caisses de Résilience** is an innovative community-centred approach that brings together three dimensions: a productive/technical dimension (i.e. sustainable agricultural practices), an economic/financial dimension (i.e. access to credit) and a social dimension (i.e. strengthening social cohesion through farmers' groups and women's associations). The approach is innovative because the support involves these three simultaneous and complementary dimensions, thereby producing a broader range of opportunities for the beneficiaries as well as strengthening their preparedness to complex shocks and crises.

## Stronger reserves mean less worry during lean season

In the north of the region of Segou in Mali, Sanihan lives in the village of Baramadougou, with 13 other members of her family. With a few weeks still to go before the next harvest their food supply was exhausted: "My husband is working in the field, and it is up to us, the women, to find money to feed the family at this time of the year. We sometimes go as far as 20 Km from here, on the banks of the Bani River, to find plants we use to make incense, and sell it to the market".

In recent years, the lean season has always posed a major challenge for Sanihan, to the point that last year she considered leaving her village and settling in the capital Bamako. "But I thought of my children, who are still so young, and I didn't go."

But things have changed since. "Today, I no longer worry about the end of the lean season or about what will happen next year, because we are engaging in new activities, which will make us stronger in trying times."

After enrolling in FAO's *Caisses de Résilience* programme, Sanihan received seeds and cash transfers

during the lean season. According to Sanihan, this assistance brought a huge change to her family, after years of repeated droughts that had undermined their seed stock. For the first time in five years, they could plant their whole plot: "The harvest will certainly be enough to have food reserves for many months."

"With the FCFA 50 000 received (nearly EUR 75), I bought millet and I will also buy goats," she explains. "Once they have given birth, I can resell them if I need money. Children also need clothes – when they do, I can buy them," she says, with some pride. "And I know that if we properly manage the aid we receive, we can do better in the future."

Along with 2 500 other vulnerable families participating in the program in Ségou and Mopti, Sanihan's family is now a member of one of the Agro-Pastoral Field Schools that FAO helped set up in Mali. There she will receive training in good agricultural and pastoral practices that help her mitigate the effects of climate change. She also enrolled in a Village Savings and Loans Association, which aim to improve their members' management and financial skills.

Thanks to this trinity of support, Sanihan's family, and 5 000 others like hers, are not only better prepared to withstand future shocks but also thrive in the present.



Mali – Sanihan, a smallholder farmer signs up to receive seeds and cash transfers, as part of the *Caisses de Résilience* programme



## 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. The Fund provides FAO with the financial means and flexibility to react promptly to humanitarian crises. Belgium, with its generous contribution of over EUR 38 million (USD 45 million), has been the largest contributor to the fund from 2004-2017.

South Sudan – Beneficiaries receive cash vouchers that they use in exchange for seeds

©FAO



### 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.



## **Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) window: enabling the immediate resumption of agricultural activities**

In 2008, FAO and Belgium established the AIRC window, which allows for rapid, quality agricultural emergency interventions aimed at protecting livelihoods while promoting a strategic approach to improve resilience to crises.

Contributions from Belgium to the AIRC window are essential to increasing the capacities of small-scale farmers affected by crises to produce their own food, generate income and resume their livelihoods as quickly as possible.

In 2017, thanks to the funds of the SFERA-AIRC, prompt responses were delivered in the Lake Chad Basin to support the agricultural and pastoral livelihoods of the populations affected by the Boko Haram crisis; similar interventions took place in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Horn of Africa to help conflict-affected communities and refugees; in the Caribbean, activities were implemented to restore the farming and fishery infrastructures providing livelihoods to populations impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria; and in Southeast Asia, agricultural and livestock assistance were provided in flood-affected areas.

## **FAO's Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) window**

In addition to its support for the SFERA-AIRC window, in 2017 Belgium became the first donor to invest in interventions aimed at anticipating crises through early warnings and early actions (SFERA-EWEA).

FAO's EWEA System translates warnings into anticipatory actions to reduce the impact of specific disaster events. It focuses on consolidating available forecasting information and putting plans in place to make sure FAO acts when a warning is at hand. Acting early before a disaster has actually happened or reached its peak is critical: it can save lives and protect livelihoods from the immediate shocks as well as protecting longer-term development gains by increasing the resilience of local communities over time.

EWEA is critical because it lets FAO undertake preparedness, mitigation and prevention activities as needed based on a specific risk, the goal of which is to shield vulnerable households as much as possible against the worst effects of a coming crisis. EWEA funds allow FAO to rapidly initiate interventions, including by developing project proposals and starting tender processes with suppliers, while still liaising with resource partners for a larger-scale response.

## Anticipating complex emergencies through early actions: preparing for the dzud in Mongolia



### Contribution

**EUR 246 500  
(USD 290 000)**



### Beneficiaries:

**1 001 rural and urban households**



### Location:

**Ulaanbaatar area;  
Mongolia**



### Duration:

**2017–2018**



### Results:

**Reduced livestock mortality**

**Maintained livestock body conditions**

**Improved rates of newborn livestock**

**Increased benefits accrued from better cashmere production**

**Households had a return of USD 7.20 for every USD 1 spent by FAO on the intervention**

Under the new EWEA window, early action was triggered to protect livestock in Mongolia against the potential impact of a dzud, a weather phenomenon in which a summer drought is quickly followed by an atypically brutal winter, causing a massive die-off of livestock, through either starvation or freezing temperatures.

Mongolia is a country of three million people and 62 million head of livestock. Not surprisingly, herding is a mainstay for close to one-third of the population. Over the summer of 2017, Mongolia experienced a prolonged drought that engulfed some 80 percent of agricultural areas and pastoral rangelands across the country. Wheat and fodder production dropped, raising concerns not just about the effects on the economy and livelihoods, but also about the country's ability to build up the necessary feed reserves to bring livestock through the harsh Mongolian winter.

The last dzud in 2010 had killed as much as eight million animals. This is why herders, as well as the government, were above all worried about the risk of another dzud. In fact, because of the poor grazing conditions during the 2017 summer, and the inability of herders to prepare natural hay locally and buy hay and fodder – due to the lack of money caused by the declined price of live animals – livestock had not developed the proper fat stores and many would likely not withstand a strong cold.

The situation presented an ideal opportunity to test FAO's EWEA capacity. Once the Mongolian Government raised the alarm, FAO, with a contribution from Belgium through SFERA, initiated a project that focused on three early actions: providing cash to vulnerable herder households in exchange for frozen certified meat, enabling them to buy hay or other essentials in the beginning of the hard winter period; distributing the meat purchased from these vulnerable households as food aid to the poorest urban households; and supplying livestock fodder packages to the target herder households to ensure the survival of the key breeding stock during the harsh winter season. The intervention targeted over 1 000 beneficiaries, corresponding to 504 vulnerable herder households and 497 vulnerable urban families, as well as one kindergarten for disabled children and two shelters for urban homeless.

An impact evaluation study conducted at the end of the project and the start of the spring period (May 2018) compared the effects of early action on beneficiary households to those who did not receive any assistance and found striking differences. Beneficiary households were markedly better off on a number of indicators including livestock mortality, livestock body conditions, rates of newborns, benefits accrued from better cashmere production and the ability to repay loans.

The beneficiary households were able to live through the harsh effects of the dzud without becoming poorer or food insecure. All of this points to not only the critical short-term benefits of early mitigation of shocks, but also important longer-term livelihood outcomes.

The analysis also demonstrated the significant return on investment of acting early: for every dollar FAO spent on livestock interventions in Mongolia in 2017, preliminary figures show that the households had a return of USD 7.20.



Mongolia – Local herder tending her animals  
©FAO



## Restoring livelihoods of typhoon-hit farmers in the Philippines



### Contribution

**EUR 370 000  
(USD 440 000)**



### Beneficiaries:

**About 62 000 people**



### Location:

**Three provinces  
in Central Luzon;  
Philippines**



### Duration:

**2015–2016**



### Results:

**Certified rice seeds  
distributed to  
4 375 households**

**Assorted vegetable  
seeds distributed to  
4 100 households**

**Urea fertilizers  
distributed to  
4 500 households**

**Beneficiaries harvested  
at least 23 600 metric  
tonnes of palay (paddy  
rice)**

**Beneficiaries generated  
at least 14 175 metric  
tonnes of milled rice,  
which can feed about  
124 000 people in 1 year**

When Typhoon Koppu made landfall in the Philippines in October 2015, it destroyed lives, livelihood and infrastructure in the country's major rice granary – Central Luzon. The heavy flooding that followed displaced close to one million people and caused damage to agriculture of more than USD 215 million. Less than two months later, Typhoon Melor hit, leaving rice and corn farmers without seeds and in even more dire need of input assistance.

Speed was of the essence to help them re-plant their land before the end of the ongoing cropping cycle, which was fast approaching. Without it, they would miss out on the next harvest and struggle to make ends meet through the coming lean seasons.

In this kind of situation, SFERA is critical to getting funds into the field at the turn of a dime and intervening at a time when livelihoods can still be protected. This, in turn, staves off larger food crises and avoids farmers getting stuck in cycles of dependence. Through SFERA, Belgium contributed funds to provide rapid support to rice farmers so they could resume production before the end of the season that December.

Belgium's contribution enabled FAO to deliver certified rice seeds, fertilizer and assorted vegetable packets with seeds for ampalaya, bitter melon, string bean, squash, eggplant, okra and tomato. As a result, some 8 600 households across three provinces in Central Luzon were able to plant more nutritious food, weeks after losing much of their livelihoods during the typhoons – this was much more than the targeted number of households.





Ruben Abella, Chairman of the Burgos Upland Farmers Association

**"If we had not received the rice seeds and fertilizer, we would have lost hope. As it stands, we are already deep in debt [from the previous cropping season]. So imagine if we had to borrow again. Some of the earnings [from the next harvest] we will use to pay our debts, some to re-invest in our livelihood, the rest of the proceeds and part of our harvest is to support our family."**



## Helping vulnerable and displaced families grow food and incomes in South Sudan



### Contribution

**EUR 450 500  
(USD 530 000)**



### Beneficiaries:

**Almost 190 000  
households**



### Location:

**South Sudan**



### Duration:

**2016-2017**



### Results:

**Emergency kits  
distributed to 190 000  
vulnerable families**

**100% of vulnerable  
households received  
livelihood support**

**Each fishing kit provides  
enough capacity to feed  
25 families for one day.**

**Each animal health  
kit provides services  
for 80 families for  
4 – 6 months.**

**Each vegetable kit  
provides 6 months of  
nutritious vegetables for  
one family.**

**Each crop kit provides  
one year of staple crops  
for a whole family.**

Years of conflict and persistent insecurity have eroded the livelihoods and coping skills of millions in South Sudan and more than once driven the country to the precipice of famine. In early 2017, a famine was declared in parts of the country. However, thanks to the concerted efforts of the international community, the famine was rapidly contained. Despite this, millions of people continue to remain on the precipice.

Working in a complex context of massive displacement, disrupted markets and ongoing violence that makes producing or even accessing food impossible in parts of the country, FAO has been supporting crisis-hit families in two main ways: by helping them meet their immediate food needs and by preventing the collapse of veterinary health care. Along the way, where possible, FAO has used its access to communities as a way to broker dialogue between different groups in an effort to ease tensions over scarce natural resources and prevent new conflicts.

During 2016 and 2017 Belgium supported FAO's emergency livelihood response work in South Sudan, through a contribution for early recovery and long-term resilience activities. More specifically, these funds, released through SFERA, allowed FAO to rapidly distribute emergency crop, vegetable and fishing kits to almost 190 000 of the most vulnerable families, including in hard-to-access areas. This meant that by the end of 2017, 100 percent of the households who were in the three most critical stages of food insecurity (IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5) received emergency livelihood support.

The fishing kits provide families with an average catch of 429 kg per month, which they can use as nutritious food and sell for additional income. Crop and vegetable kits, in turn, provide fast-growing seeds that families can plant in their backyards, enough to support a household for six months.

In all, the funding Belgium provided through this project contributed to rebuilding the capacity of FAO's Emergency Livelihoods Response Programme at a critical time, after much of its reserves were depleted during the July 2016 crisis, and ensured the success of FAO's overall programme in 2017.



## Vegetable kits help families start over and stay afloat in trying circumstances

Nicholas Karaba is a smallholder from an area just 3 km outside of Yei Town, about a three-hour drive south of South Sudan's capital, Juba. He is among thousands of farmers who benefited from FAO emergency livelihood kits, following the July 2016 crisis that left so many families searching for food and safety in IDP centres across the country.

"The insecurity from July has really made me and my family very vulnerable - I lost almost everything," he says. Among his losses were all of the cassava, cowpeas, maize and sorghum he was growing on his two feddans – together just short of a hectare – of land. But he also lost household items and valuable livestock, including his goats and chicken". Displaced, and with no means of keeping up a livelihood, he took shelter at the IDP Centre of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan in Yei Town.

Through the church, he now has 1 feddan of land to plant and cultivate. Space for cultivation is a major issue in Yei Town, where people are confined to a 7 km radius and cannot access their farms beyond this small radius, due to insecurity.

The vegetable seeds he received and planted in November 2017 from the FAO project are now bearing fruit. "Through the distribution, I learned about the importance of vegetable seeds and how to grow them. I will continue with this, to improve my farming as a business, so I pay my children's school fees and other social responsibilities". His vegetable production allows his family to get back on their feet, stay healthy and hopefully save some income from the sale of fruit that can, in time, help them rebuild a life outside the centre when the security situation permits it.



South Sudan - local resident holds her baby at home after receiving seeds during a distribution

© FAO / UNHCR Albert Gonzalez Farran

## Restoring the agricultural livelihoods of vulnerable households in north-eastern Nigeria



### Contribution

**EUR 425 000  
(USD 500 000)**



### Beneficiaries:

**8 000 IDP, returnee and  
host families**



### Location:

**Adamawa, Borno and  
Yobe states; Nigeria**



### Duration:

**2017–2018**



### Results:

**98% of planned  
beneficiaries assisted**

**99 tonnes of crop  
and vegetable seeds  
distributed**

**275 tonnes of fertilizer  
provided**

**Assistance resulted  
in 6 months of cereal  
availability**

**Families able to earn  
USD 77 from selling  
vegetables and cereals  
produced**

Since 2009, the extreme violence provoked by armed insurgents left widespread devastation in northeastern Nigeria, forcing more than 1.9 million civilians to flee their homes and lose their livelihoods. An estimated 80–90 percent of the population in the Lake Chad area depend on agriculture, fisheries and livestock for their livelihoods and food security. For the ninth consecutive year, production systems have been affected by the insecurity caused by the threat of attacks and a lack of agricultural inputs.

In October 2016, FAO and partners carried out a Seed Security System Assessment, which clearly indicated that seeds were available in Nigeria. However, seed access was limited for the most vulnerable populations, including IDPs and host communities. Local grain markets were equally disrupted, especially in the areas most affected by the insurgency. These markets have usually offered resource-poor farmers an alternative source of seeds, especially for those who need to complement their own saved seeds but cannot afford better yielding certified-quality seeds. The farmers in conflict-affected areas who did not cultivate crops in 2016 had fewer or no seeds for the next season (2017) and therefore needed to obtain seeds from other sources – which were equally not promising – and largely depend on their limited disposable assets.

Following the slight improvement of the security situation and increased government control over certain areas, more than 1.2 million people have returned to their areas of origin and are trying to rebuild their lives and livelihoods with little or no support. However, the lack of agricultural inputs was identified as a major constraint for numerous farmers, leaving many reliant on humanitarian aid to meet their daily food needs. With support from Belgium and other partners, through SFERA, FAO developed a programmatic response aimed at restoring the agricultural livelihoods of IDPs, returnees and host communities with access to land in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States through the provision of quality agricultural inputs. More specifically, Belgium's contribution allowed FAO to assist 8 000 families in time for the 2017 main rainy season and dry seasons, with the objective of protecting and restoring their livelihoods.

Overall, FAO and its partners assisted almost one million people with seeds and fertilizers to ensure planting during the 2017 rainy and dry seasons, resulting in an increase in cereal/pulse and vegetable production. All food security indicators compared with the baseline significantly improved. Moreover, the outcome of the rainy and dry seasons and the considerable harvest obtained indicate the importance of providing time-critical agricultural support. With millions of people in northeastern Nigeria facing severe hunger, FAO was able to establish a strong programmatic and operational response that assisted severely food-insecure people to produce their own food and generate income.







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

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
GCP /INT/810/BEL	Gestion des connaissances et genre - Capitalisation des bonnes pratiques et Dimitra phase II	9,944,545.00	2002-01-01	2016-12-31	Closed
OSRO/DRC/708/BEL	Aide et production alimentaire et amélioration de la résilience des ménages déplacés/ retournés, familles d'enfants malnutris et familles hôtes victimes des conflits armés et intercommunautaires du Grand Kasaï	4,711,200.00	2017-12-15	2019-12-14	Ongoing
OSRO/RAF/605/BEL	Réduire la vulnérabilité des moyens d'existence agricoles à travers l'approche « Caisses de Résilience » au Sahel	4,459,310.00	2016-10-15	2018-10-14	Ongoing
GCP /UGA/041/BEL	Agricultural Adaptation to Climate Change in the Central Cattle Corridor, Uganda.	3,911,342.00	2013-09-12	2016-04-11	Closed
OSRO/HAI/607/BEL	Protection, réhabilitation et diversification des moyens d'existence des populations affectées par l'ouragan Matthew en Haïti	3,184,715.00	2016-12-01	2018-11-30	Ongoing
GCP /MOZ/116/BEL	Food Security and Nutrition Program for Gaza Province, Mozambique	2,952,914.00	2013-08-01	2019-04-30	Ongoing
OSRO/DRC/404/BEL	Consolidation des acquis des phases antérieures du P4P au Katanga et en Equateur	2,439,024.00	2015-02-01	2016-03-31	Closed
OSRO/IRQ/602/BEL	Supporting Iraqi community in the newly liberated areas and neighboring affected areas of Salah Al Din, Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates through a Cash-for- Work programme.	2,247,719.00	2016-10-20	2018-10-19	Ongoing
OSRO/MLI/604/BEL	Renforcer la résilience des populations affectées par les crises à travers la relance des activités pastorales dans les régions du Nord Mali	2,122,644.00	2016-12-08	2019-12-07	Ongoing
FBPP/GLO/012/BEL	FAO/Belgium Partnership Programme (2008-2011 / 2013-2014) in the Field of Urban and peri Urban Agriculture - Capitalisation et diffusion des acquis en matière de méthodologies et de technologies	1,648,388.00	2009-03-18	2017-12-31	Closed
OSRO/CAF/705/BEL	Assistance agricole d'urgence en appui à la résilience des communautés vulnérables affectées par les crises en RCA	1,179,245.00	2017-07-27	2018-07-26	Ongoing
OSRO/YEM/405/BEL	Improving vulnerable households' food and nutrition security status in Sa'ada Governorate.	1,000,000.00	2015-02-05	2016-12-31	Closed
GCP /MLI/037/BEL	Programme de lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la malnutrition dans les cercles de Nara et Nioro du Sahel	870,505.00	2012-04-27	2017-06-30	Closed

\* Contributions provided to the Multilateral /Pooled Trust Funds are not included in the list

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

\*\*\*As of 4 July 2018

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
GCP /BDI/035/BEL	Appui de la FAO à la coordination globale du programme FBSA au Burundi dans le cadre du "Programme multi-acteurs d'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire dans les communes de Cendajuru, Gisuru et Kinyinya - Burundi"	843,624.00	2014-01-01	2018-12-30	Ongoing
OSRO/MLW/502/BEL	Emergency assistance for resuming smallholder crop production in flood affected districts of Malawi	550,000.00	2015-06-01	2016-05-31	Closed
OSRO/CAF/507/BEL	Assistance d'urgence aux ménages agricoles vulnérables des zones les plus affectées par la crise en RCA	548,200.00	2015-04-01	2016-02-29	Closed
OSRO/SSD/605/BEL	Rapid response and livelihood support for crisis-affected populations in South Sudan	529,412.00	2016-10-01	2017-12-31	Closed
OSRO/KEN/703/BEL	Protecting livestock assets and safeguarding livelihoods in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera and Wajir.	500,001.00	2017-08-10	2018-08-09	Ongoing
OSRO/RLA/601/BEL	Drought emergency response and resilience in the Dry Corridor of Central America	500,001.00	2016-04-15	2017-07-15	Closed
OSRO/BDI/602/BEL	Assistance agricole aux menages vulnérables affectés par le conflit socio-politique et les aleas	500,000.00	2016-08-01	2017-03-31	Closed
OSRO/DRC/606/BEL	Appui d'urgence pour accroître la résilience des communautés en proie aux conflits armés.	500,000.00	2016-10-01	2017-09-30	Closed
OSRO/DRC/704/BEL	Réponse d'urgence en intrants agricoles en faveur de 5 000 ménages les plus vulnérables (déplacés internes, retournés et ménages des communautés hôtes), victimes de la crise humanitaire au Kasai Central, Kasai, Kasai Oriental	500,000.00	2017-08-15	2018-06-30	Ongoing
OSRO/ETH/704/BEL	Protecting the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods of communities in drought affected regions of Ethiopia through innovative feed interventions	500,000.00	2017-08-01	2018-07-31	Ongoing
OSRO/HAI/603/BEL	Renforcement de la résilience des communautés rurales affectées par la sécheresse	500,000.00	2016-04-15	2017-04-14	Closed
OSRO/HAI/606/BEL	Protect and rehabilitate livestock and fishery livelihoods affected by hurricane Matthew in Grande Anse and Sud departments to reestablish their Food Security	500,000.00	2016-11-01	2017-11-30	Closed
OSRO/MAG/603/BEL	Assistance d'urgence aux ménages vulnérables affectés par la sécheresse et les effets de El Niño	500,000.00	2016-11-01	2017-06-30	Closed



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

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
OSRO/NIR/604/BEL	North East Nigeria Agricultural production support program	500,000.00	2016-07-27	2016-12-27	Closed
OSRO/NIR/704/BEL	Restoring agricultural livelihood of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host families in NE Nigeria	500,000.00	2017-03-20	2018-09-30	Ongoing
OSRO/PHI/701/BEL	Emergency assistance in restoring food security and agricultural production in conflict-affected communities in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Philippines	500,000.00	2017-08-01	2018-06-30	Ongoing
OSRO/UGA/602/BEL	Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods support to South Sudanese Refugees influx and host communities in	500,000.00	2016-11-11	2017-10-10	Closed
OSRO/ETH/503/BEL	Emergency Protection of Livestock based Livelihood Assets of Pastoralists and Agro pastoralists	500,000.00	2015-12-01	2016-12-01	Closed
OSRO/NEP/501/BEL	NEPAL - earthquake Flash Appeal 2015	500,000.00	2015-05-10	2016-04-30	Closed
OSRO/GAZ/501/BEL	Emergency support to Avian Influenza outbreaks and to low resilience and food insecure urban and peri-urban livelihoods in the Gaza Strip (HPC project OPT-15/F/73149).	475,000.00	2015-06-01	2016-07-31	Closed
OSRO/PHI/502/BEL	Emergency response in restoring agricultural livelihoods in Typhoon Koppu affected communities	440,000.00	2015-11-11	2016-06-30	Closed
OSRO/DRC/501/BEL	Accroître la résilience des communautés en proie aux conflits armés dans le Nord et le Sud Kivu à travers une meilleure préparation et réponse aux crises ou menaces soudaines	418,939.00	2015-05-08	2016-03-07	Closed
OSRO/KEN/702/BEL	Protecting livestock assets and safeguarding livelihoods in crossborder areas of the Mandera Cluster	400,000.00	2017-04-15	2018-04-12	Ongoing
OSRO/MYA/504/BEL	Emergency assistance for recovery of livelihoods of flood affected people in Chin state	400,000.00	2016-01-04	2017-04-30	Closed
OSRO/KEN/702/BEL	Protecting livestock assets and safeguarding livelihoods in crossborder areas of the Mandera Cluster	400,000.00	2017-04-15	2018-04-12	Ongoing

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

\*\*\*As of 4 July 2018

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
OSRO/VAN/501/BEL	Emergency support to re-establish food security in communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam	330,000.00	2015-04-01	2016-03-31	Closed
OSRO/BGD/703/BEL	Emergency support for small-scale livestock farmers in flood-affected communities of Bangladesh	300,000.00	2017-09-29	2018-09-14	Ongoing
OSRO/CHD/703/BEL	Réponse aux besoins humanitaires pastoraux suite à la crise Boko-Haram au Tchad	300,000.00	2017-07-01	2018-05-30	Ongoing
OSRO/CMR/703/BEL	Assistance d'urgence pour la protection des activités pastorales des ménages affectés par la crise B	300,000.00	2017-07-01	2018-07-31	Ongoing
OSRO/CUB/702/BEL	Emergency support to rehabilitate food security and livelihoods of people affected by IRMA	300,000.00	2017-10-12	2018-09-11	Ongoing
OSRO/FIJ/602/BEL	Emergency Support to Re-establish Agricultural, Fisheries & Aquatic Plant Production Post TC Winston	300,000.00	2016-04-28	2017-09-30	Closed
OSRO/JOR/502/BEL	Enhance food security and nutrition of vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugee households	300,000.00	2016-02-20	2017-02-19	Closed
OSRO/LEB/501/BEL	Emergency assistance to vulnerable Lebanese farmers affected by the Syria crisis and to displaced Syrians to enhance their food security	300,000.00	2015-06-01	2016-02-29	Closed
OSRO/SUD/505/BEL	Emergency food security and livelihood interventions for vulnerable conflict and disaster affected populations in West and South Darfur and Blue Nile states	300,000.00	2015-05-01	2016-04-30	Closed
OSRO/UKR/501/BEL	Emergency assistance for immediate food security and nutrition through provision of critical livestock inputs in the conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions	300,000.00	2015-05-05	2016-05-04	Closed
OSRO/YEM/604/BEL	Monitoring and Controlling Desert Locust at Winter Breeding Seasons October 2016- April 2017	260,000.00	2016-11-07	2017-05-06	Closed
OSRO/CVI/501/BEL	Assistance d'urgence pour la relance des activités productives des ménages affectés par l'éruption du Volcan Fogo, à travers la provision d'intrants agricoles et d'élevage dans l'île de Fogo	210,000.00	2015-04-01	2016-03-31	Closed
OSRO/ANG/701/BEL	Emergency assistance in restoring food security and agricultural production in DRC refugees in North	100,000.00	2017-12-01	2018-05-31	Ongoing
OSRO/DMI/703/BEL	Emergency support to restore the fishery sector and to protect the livelihoods of the most vulnerable fisherfolk affected by hurricane Maria	100,000.00	2017-11-01	2018-10-30	Ongoing



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