



REINFORCING RIGHT TO FOOD AND REDUCING FOOD INSECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

Despite its enormous potential, West Africa continues to suffer from high levels of food insecurity, with an estimated 11 percent of its population suffering from undernourishment or chronic hunger. With stunting, wasting, underweight and micronutrient deficiencies (such as vitamin A, iron and iodine deficiencies) affecting the most vulnerable groups, in particular children aged under five and women in reproductive age, a number of initiatives were adopted and projects implemented in the region. However, there has been insufficient coordination of these initiatives and projects, despite the fact that they target similar geographical areas and beneficiary populations. In addition, the Right to Food has not been adequately promoted in the region, despite being a fundamental pillar in attaining the Zero Hunger target. In response to a request from the Economic Community of West African States, the project aimed to help government and non-government partners to collaborate more strongly and increase their efforts towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition in West Africa.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project worked closely with the Economic Community of West African States in the development process of the second generation of its Regional Agricultural Policy, to ensure that the process was inclusive, participatory and multisectoral. The capacity strengthening of actors, both public and non-state actors, was also given priority, as well as support to food and nutrition security coordination initiatives within the subregion. The three key outputs of the project were (i) definition of strategy and framework for a hunger-free West Africa through participatory multistakeholder process, (ii) development and application of strategies on combining social protection and agriculture and (iii) integration of nutrition into national and regional agriculture investment policies, plans and budgets. In particular, there was also significant focus on Regional and National Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security Investment Plans.

IMPACT

The project was successful in developing the strategic framework for the Zero Hunger Initiative of the Economic Community of West African States and in supporting the formulation of appropriate food and nutrition security policies, strategies, investments and programmes. The formulation of some of the material produced during the project, such as the Zero Hunger Initiative Conceptual Framework and the Regional Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security Investment Plan 2016-2020 will help to integrate nutrition into national and regional agriculture investment plans and policies. This will give momentum to the drive towards a hunger-free West Africa and significantly strengthen the food security of vulnerable communities in the target countries.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 2 237 151

Duration

September 2013 – December 2017

Resource Partner

Federal Ministry for Food and
Agriculture of Germany (BMEL)

Partners

Agricultural and Rural Department
Directorate of the Economic Community
of West African States, Regional Agency
for Agriculture and Food

Beneficiaries

Individuals who do not enjoy their
human right to food, as well as the
Economic Community of West African
States Commission and its agencies,
national governments and their partners

ACTIVITIES

- Survey conducted to assess the level of promotion of Right to Food in West Africa, to serve as a baseline from which to guide future project actions and to sensitize stakeholders.
- Contribution to the formulation of the Zero Hunger Initiative Conceptual Framework and the Regional Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States, which highlights the priority areas of work and necessary implementation arrangements to achieve Zero Hunger and malnutrition by 2025.
- Support provided to 11 countries in the development of their National Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security Investment Plans (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo).
- Regional Nutrition Strategy for West Africa elaborated in 2017, including key multisectoral interventions for improving nutrition in West Africa and highlighting the contribution of the agriculture and health sectors.
- Countries supported in strengthening their food and nutrition security coordination (for example, Côte d’Ivoire supported in the establishment of the National Nutrition Council and strengthening of its capacities).
- Capacities of non-state actors on Right to Food promotion strengthened during a regional workshop, resulting in the elaboration of a “Declaration of non-state actors on Right to Food promotion in West Africa”.
- Assessment of social protection policies and programmes and their linkages with agriculture, food security and nutrition conducted in Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.
- Technical support provided to developing other national food and nutrition security policies and their action plans, such as the National Nutrition Security Policy 2016-2025 and its Action Plan 2016-2020, for the Niger, the Common Result Framework for Stunting Reduction in Benin and the Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy 2016-2025 in Nigeria.



Project Code

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Project Title

Establishing a Hunger-free Initiative for West Africa

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