



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO + Belgium

Innovative solutions for Zero Hunger

Belgium is a key strategic partner for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supporting the Organization's mandate for both humanitarian and development activities. With over EUR 19.6 million¹ (USD 21.6 million) in assessed and voluntary contributions between 2018 and 2019, the country has generously funded innovative and critical areas in support of food security, economic growth, employment and income generation to foster resilient and sustainable development, in addition to hosting the FAO Liaison Office in Brussels.

Scaling up impact through flexible funding

Belgium has played a fundamental role in providing flexible funding to the Organization, specifically through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) and the Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM). This has allowed FAO to boost its capacity to develop more impactful ways of working, respond faster to emergencies and promote early action to mitigate the impact of disasters. In addition, by recognizing the vital role of more flexible, predictable and less-earmarked funding in enabling innovation, speed and cross-sectoral cooperation, Belgium is strengthening FAO's ability to test and scale up catalytic development solutions around the world.

Responding fast to humanitarian crises

The SFERA Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity window (AIRC) supported by Belgium allows FAO to provide agricultural assistance through the quick release of funding within a few days, usually before official resource partner agreements are finalized.

In 2018-2019, Belgium's funding to SFERA AIRC provided emergency livelihood support to the most vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters such as the earthquake, followed by a tsunami, that struck Indonesia in September 2018, the Tropical Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and the drought in Afghanistan, Cabo Verde and Senegal; conflict as in the Syrian Arab Republic, where wheat farmers faced serious challenges to access good quality certified seeds, in Cameroon, where refugees and displaced people by Boko Haram had urgent needs for animal health services for their livestock and in Burkina Faso, where insecurity affected households' access to food; and protracted crises, such as in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Yemen, where a combination of events including weather extremes and political and economic instability have required immediate interventions to support the most affected communities.

A strategic alliance

Strategic consultations between Belgium and FAO in 2018 have reinforced the strategic direction of the partnership, reflected in the 2016 Framework Agreement, by offering a forum for exploring common priorities for future collaboration, including with academic institutions. With agriculture as a key sector in its development cooperation agenda, Belgium places a keen focus on multiple themes at the heart of FAO's work:

- Responding to food security crises;
- Fostering sustainable and economically viable agricultural production;
- Promoting commercially viable value chains;
- Encouraging digital innovation in food security.



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Acting early to mitigate the impact of disasters

The SFERA Early Action window enables FAO to work with national governments and civil society to initiate anticipatory action for the agriculture and food security sectors. During 2018 and 2019, thanks to Belgium's contributions to the SFERA Early Action Fund, FAO was able to protect the livelihood of rice farmers from drought in the Philippines; protect livestock assets by supplying animal feed and vaccinations in the Niger; and anticipate and mitigate the impact of *El Niño*-driven drought on the agricultural livelihoods and assets of vulnerable farmers in Madagascar and Malawi.

Bridging the humanitarian-development-peace nexus through resilience building

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without resilient livelihoods. FAO, with the support of partners like Belgium, puts a great emphasis on increasing resilience, combining humanitarian assistance and development actions to support countries to more effectively prevent and cope with threats and disasters that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Between 2017 and 2019, Belgium supported FAO in reviving food production and boosting social cohesion in communities affected by armed and inter-community conflicts in the Greater Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Belgium and FAO further worked together in Burkina Faso and Mali to strengthen the resilience of livelihoods to climatic hazards through the *Caisse de Résilience* approach.

Providing sustainable solutions through innovation

In partnership with Belgium, and in line with the country's Humanitarian Aid Strategy — geared to promote innovation — FAO successfully tested innovative new technologies and tools to build resilience in some of the most complex contexts in 2018 and 2019. In the Gaza Strip, funding from Belgium allowed FAO to provide time-critical support to save agricultural livelihoods by addressing critical electricity shortages through renewable solar energy sources. In addition, support from Belgium contributed to FAO's efforts to develop a Fall armyworm (FAW) Monitoring System to monitor the spread and impact of FAW on the food security of smallholder farmers in Africa.

Improving food security and nutrition

Eradicating hunger in all its forms depends on our ability to ensure that our agricultural supply chains and the communities they serve are healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient. FAO, together with partners like Belgium, coordinates work on nutrition to protect, promote and improve nutrition-sensitive food systems.

Between 2013 and 2019, resources from Belgium supported FAO in implementing a project in Mozambique aimed at developing the capacity of farmers to improve their production and animal husbandry systems, while strengthening the various organizations and systems at district, provincial and national levels.

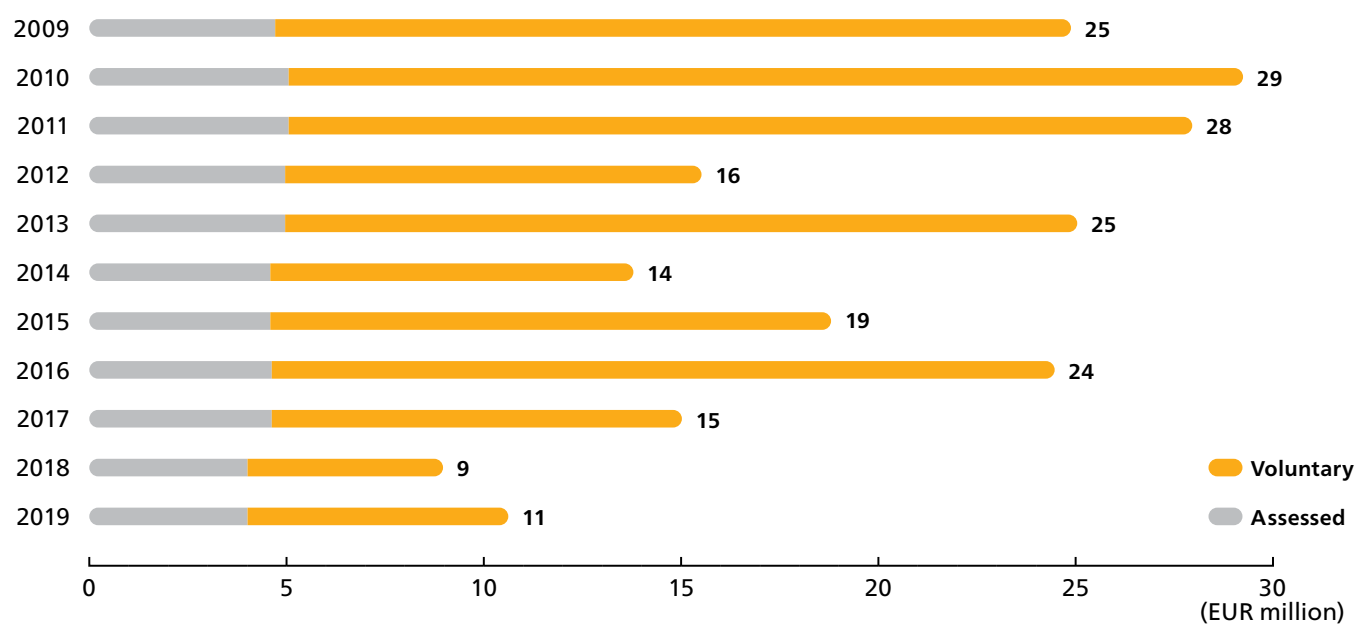


Partnership in figures

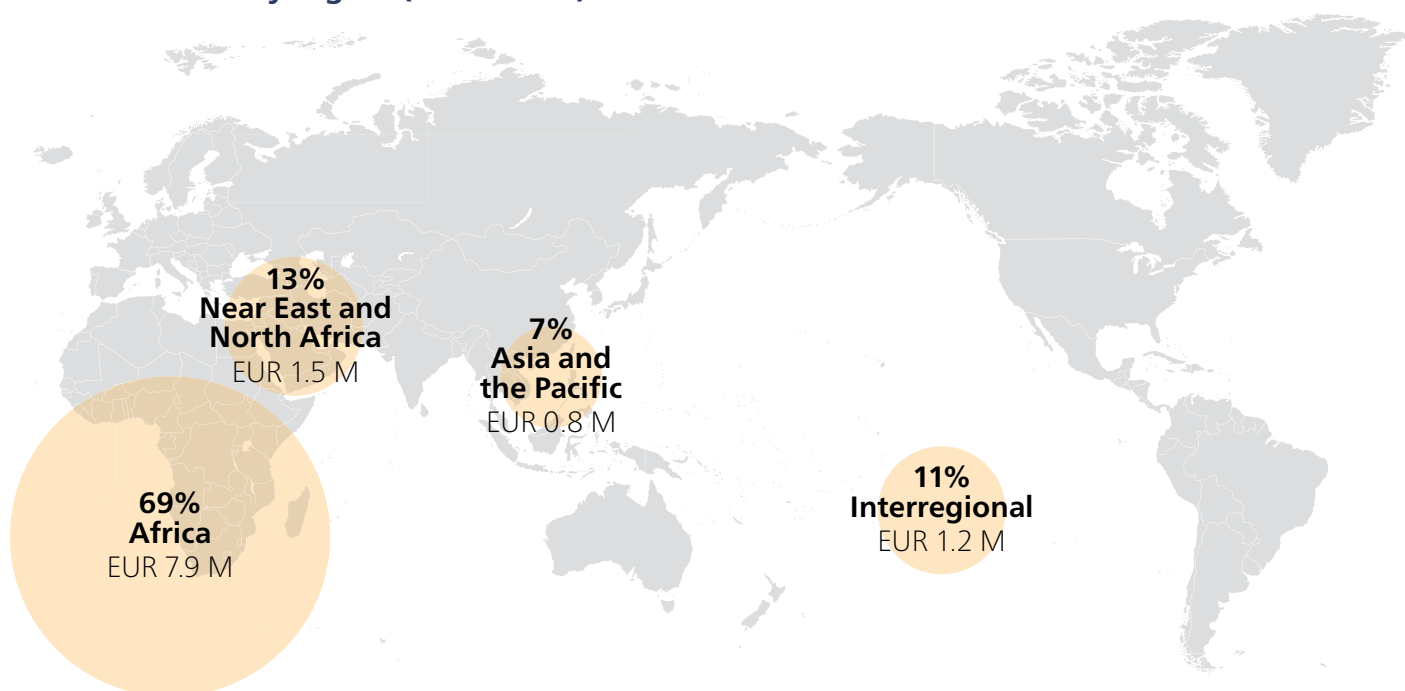
Total contributions to FAO
(assessed and voluntary²) 2018–2019:

EUR 19.6 M (USD 21.6 M)

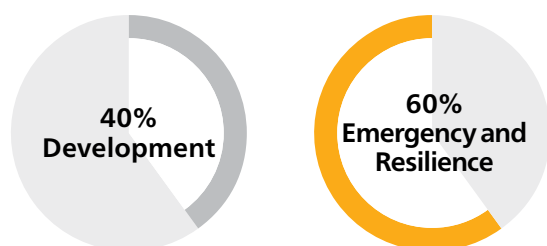
Trend of total contributions (2009–2019)



Contributions by region (2018–2019)²



Contributions by category (2018–2019)²



Contributions to FAO's areas of work/Strategic Objectives (2018–2019)² aligned to the SDGs³

60%

Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises



29%

Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable



11%

Reduce rural poverty



¹ Values in euros (EUR) are estimated based on the UN operational exchange rate as of 1 April 2020 (USD 1 = EUR 0.906).

² Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals, excluding those provided to Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds.

³ SDG targets and indicators included in the 2018–21 Strategic Objective (SO) results framework, as per FAO Director-General's Medium-Term Plan (2018–21).

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