



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# FAO

# +

# Belgium

Innovative solutions  
for Zero Hunger





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for Zero Hunger**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Rome, 2020

Required citation:

FAO. 2020. *FAO + Belgium. Innovative solutions for Zero Hunger*. Rome.

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# Acknowledgements

FAO would like to express its sincere gratitude and thanks to the Belgian Government entities that contributed to this report. Particular thanks to the Embassy of Belgium in Italy for its generous support and time in producing this document.

This report was produced under the overall patronage of the Deputy Director-General, Elizabeth Bechdol, the leadership of Alexander Jones, Director of the Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships Division, and the strategic guidance of Kazuki Kitaoka, Head of the Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Unit. The production of the report was coordinated by Irene Pirca Garcia and Lorenzo Gentile, Resource Mobilization Specialists, and written by Hayley Benjamin. Editorial support was provided by Alessandra Rantucci. Layout was provided by Heather Perreault.

The information presented is the result of contributions from across FAO. Particular appreciation goes to the FAO Liaison Office in Brussels, and colleagues in headquarters, including Vanja Bozic, Oumou Doumbouya, Natalie Feistritzer, Giorgi Kharshiladze and Nelea Motriuc, for their invaluable guidance, support and inputs.

# Abbreviations

<b>AIRC</b>	Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity
<b>CFS</b>	Committee on World Food Security
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo
<b>EWEA</b>	Early Warning Early Action
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FFS</b>	Farmer Field School
<b>FMM</b>	Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism
<b>FAW</b>	Fall Armyworm
<b>IPPC</b>	International Plant Protection Convention
<b>ITPGRFA</b>	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
<b>RBA</b>	Rome-based Agencies
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SFERA</b>	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loan Associations
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

# Partnership at a glance

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. The country is generously funding 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. The strategic alignment between Belgium's and FAO's priorities is strong, and is the foundation of the partnership.

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 mission: from responding to food security crises and fostering sustainable, economically viable agricultural production, to promoting commercially viable value chains and encouraging digital innovation in food security. Discussions at the December 2018 strategic consultation echoed these commitments and helped to solidify Belgium's and FAO's joint vision, centred on saving lives, safeguarding livelihoods and human dignity, and building resilience against future crises.

From 2009 to 2019, Belgium totalled EUR 163 million<sup>1</sup> (USD 180 million) in voluntary contributions. In the period from 2018 to 2019, the country invested in FAO's emergency response to humanitarian crises, mainly in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Syria and Yemen along with early action in the Philippines, Madagascar and Malawi, and regional resilience activities in the Sahel and the Lake Chad region. In the same period, the geographic distribution of Belgium's contributions shows that the majority (69 percent) were directed to Africa, followed by the Near East (13 percent), interregional projects (11 percent) and Asia (7 percent). Thematically, the largest share of Belgium's contributions during the 2018–2019 period supported FAO's work in responding to crises and building resilient livelihoods (60 percent).

Belgium has played a fundamental role in providing flexible funding to the Organization, through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA), as well as 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. Furthermore, Belgium and FAO share a joint vision in bridging the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Belgium's support has been critical to foster a stronger collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), also through its contributions directed to a project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where FAO and

the World Food Programme (WFP) worked together on joint resilience programming as well as immediate life-saving activities.

The 2016 Framework Agreement between Belgium and FAO has provided the partnership a renewed and strengthened strategic direction. This has since been reinforced by strategic consultations such as that held in 2018, which offered a forum for exploring common priorities for future collaboration, also with academic institutions. For example, a partnership between FAO and the University of Liège is contributing towards building resilience in African francophone communities by enhancing technical capacities and expertise to achieve Zero Hunger. The collaboration actively works on the themes of climate change and migration impacts on rural youth, One Health/ pandemic threats, sustainable energy for migratory populations, urban agriculture, and more generally in the fields of veterinary medicine and bioengineering. The partnership with the Université Catholique de Louvain, also ongoing, is focused on strengthening capacities for mitigation and adaptation to climate change by combatting desertification, through remote-sensing dryness mapping for early warning systems of desert locust-affected countries in Africa and Asia, and assessments, monitoring, sustainable management and restoration of dryland forests in agro-silvopastoral systems.

The strong alignment between FAO's Strategic Framework and Belgium's humanitarian and development strategies in agriculture, food security and nutrition — with a clear focus on digitalization for rural development, inclusion of the private sector, and the sustainable management of natural resources — provide scope for a long and ever-stronger partnership in the fight against hunger.

The year 2020 has been a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with potentially severe economic and social impacts. In the years to come, FAO and Belgium will continue to work around common priorities to address current and emerging global challenges. Most recently, Belgium is supporting FAO in the rapid recovery of vulnerable households' livelihoods in Mali during COVID-19 and early action to anticipate the impact of the pandemic in Haiti, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

## Joint action on COVID-19: Boosting food security and safety for all

The COVID-19 pandemic is compounding existing global challenges, jeopardizing human health and disrupting the food systems that are the foundations of health. If we do not act, the world may face a global food emergency of a severity and scale unseen for more than half a century. FAO and its partners, including Belgium, have recently started working together on a speedy, decisive, coordinated and innovative response to the impacts of the pandemic on peoples' lives and livelihoods, global food trade, markets, food supply chains and livestock.

In the coming years, FAO's holistic COVID-19 response will focus on seven key priority areas:

1. data for decision-making;
2. economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty;
3. trade and food safety standards;
4. boosting smallholder resilience for recovery;
5. preventing the next zoonotic pandemic;
6. food systems transformation; and
7. global humanitarian response plan.

This comprehensive programme is being designed to proactively and sustainably address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, while providing uninterrupted and long-term support to countries in the pursuit of the SDGs.

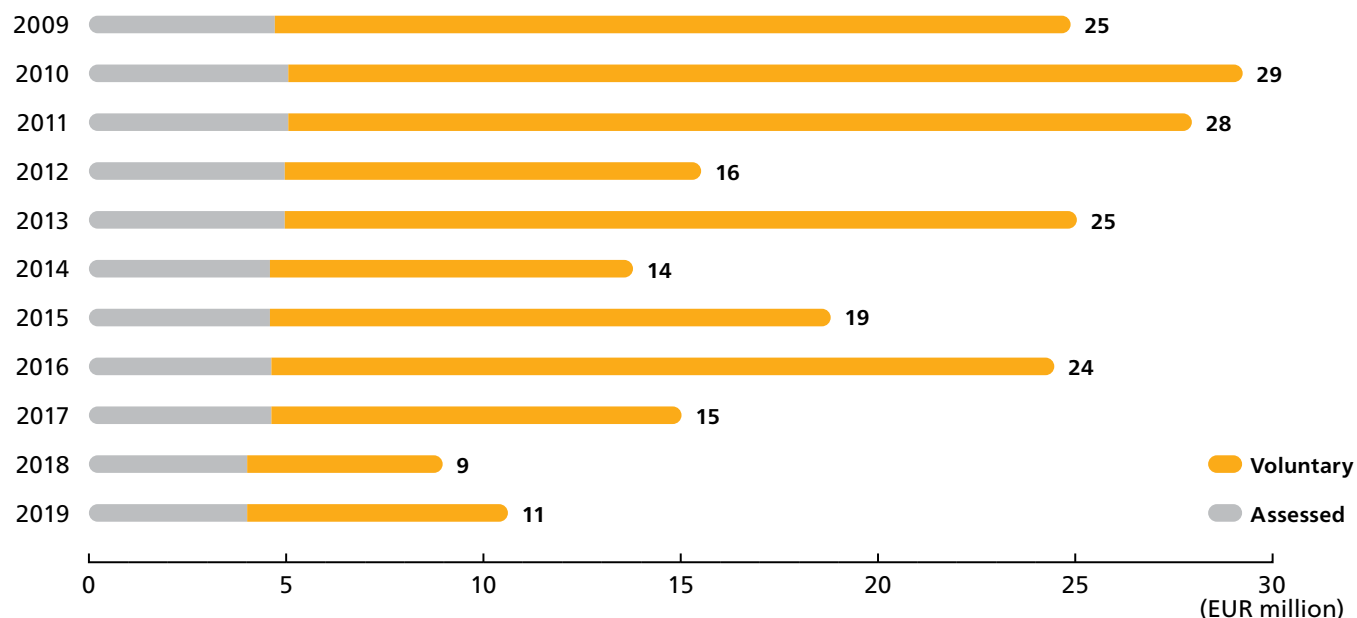
<sup>1</sup> Values in euros (EUR) are estimated based on the UN operational rate of exchange as of 1 April 2020 (USD 1 = EUR 0.906).

# In figures

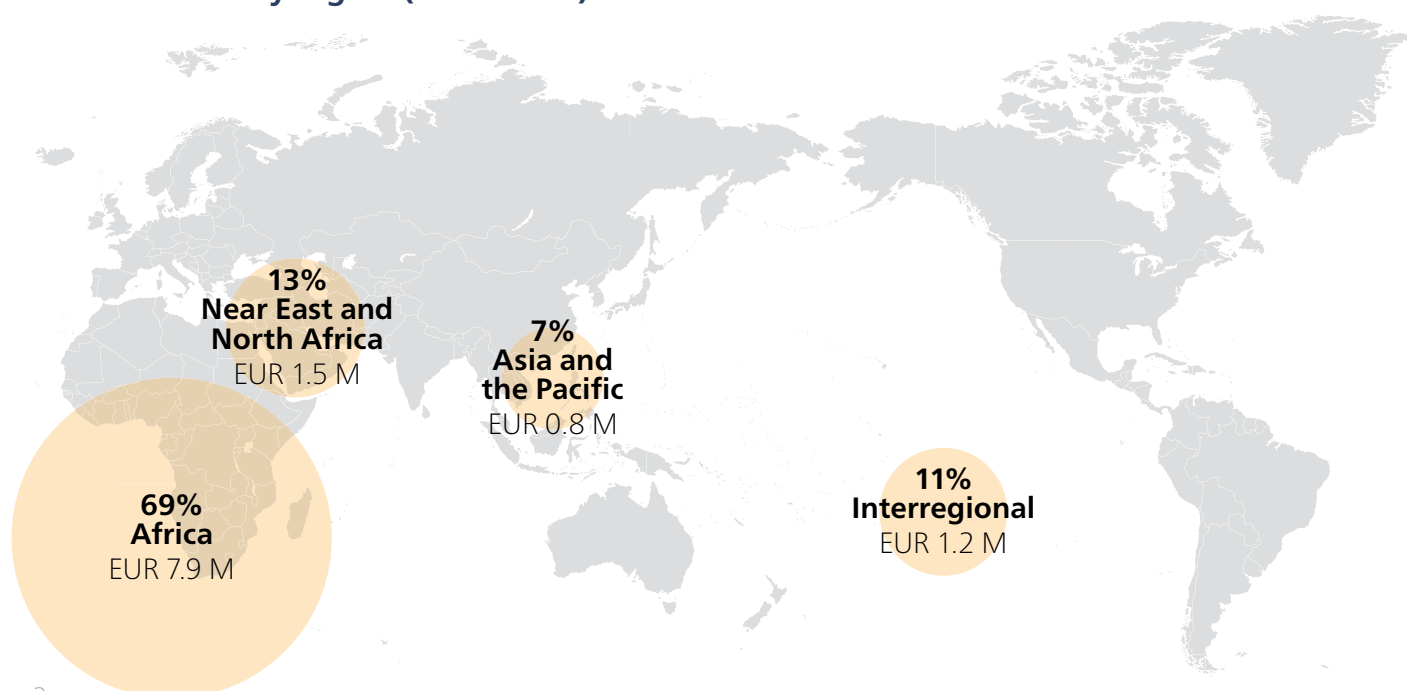
## Total contributions to FAO (assessed and voluntary<sup>2</sup>) 2018–2019:

**EUR 19.6 M** (USD 21.6 M)

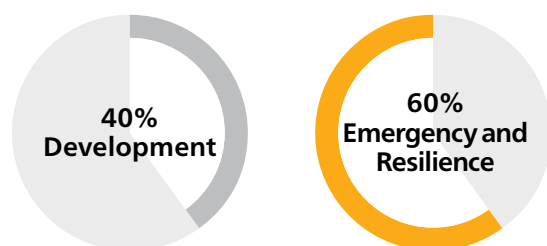
## Trend of total contributions (2009–2019)



## Contributions by region (2018–2019)<sup>2</sup>



## Contributions by category (2018–2019)<sup>2</sup>



## Contributions to FAO's areas of work/Strategic Objectives (2018–2019)<sup>2</sup> aligned to the SDGs<sup>3</sup>



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

<sup>3</sup>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).



## Scaling up impact through flexible funding

In the last biennium, Belgium's support has been primarily directed towards the FAO SFERA to provide emergency response to food security crises and build resilient livelihoods, as well as towards FAO's Regular Programme budget through the FMM — the main channel for non-emergency Belgian funding today.

### SFERA

FAO and Belgium have a longstanding partnership and a joint vision in saving lives, safeguarding livelihoods and human dignity, and building resilience to future crises, bridging the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Belgium is not only one of the largest resource partners to FAO's SFERA, with contributions of EUR 7 million (USD 8 million) in the 2018–2019 period, but is also one of the most reliable and innovative ones and a pioneer in flexible funding. Contributions to SFERA have enabled FAO to increase its capacity to react quickly when disasters strike, and take early action in response to early signs of impending crises through the SFERA Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) and Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) windows. These mechanisms have also enabled Belgium to be one of the first and most active resource partners to respond to sudden-onset emergencies or to acute deterioration of the humanitarian situation in protracted crises, and to promote early action when possible.

### FMM

By recognizing the vital role of more flexible, predictable and less-earmarked funding in enabling innovation, speed and cross-sectoral cooperation in pursuit of the SDGs, Belgium and a growing number of resource partners allow FAO to foster more integrated development solutions through their contributions to the FMM. Since its inception, the FMM has enabled investments in new approaches and practices, while also creating global impact through the development and dissemination of knowledge products. Building on its first phase, which supported 32 projects in 70 countries between 2014 and 2017, Belgium continues to be a strong supporter in phase two, with a total contribution of EUR 8 million (USD 8.8 million). The FMM offers a programmatic funding approach, streamlined and efficient governance, improved resource allocation and reporting procedures, and an emphasis on cost-effective results.











# Responding fast to humanitarian crises

During a humanitarian crisis, productive assets such as seeds, tools, livestock and fishing gear are often lost, with a domino effect on food security and nutrition, increasing poverty and dependence on external food assistance. It is FAO's top priority to assist affected farming families with a view to enabling them to produce their own food and rebuild their lives and livelihoods as quickly as possible.

The SFERA Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity window (AIRC), supported by Belgium and other donors, allows FAO to provide agricultural assistance through the quick release of funding within a few days, usually before official resource partners' agreements are finalized. Through immediate procurement and delivery of time-critical inputs, crisis-affected populations can quickly restore food production and stabilize their livelihoods.

During the 2018–2019 period, Belgium's SFERA AIRC funds were allocated, among others, to provide emergency livelihood support to the most vulnerable populations affected by (i) 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, Senegal and Cabo Verde; (ii) conflicts as in the Syrian Arab Republic, where wheat farmers faced serious challenges to access good quality certified seed, in Cameroon, where refugees and people displaced by Boko Haram had urgent need for animal health services for their livestock, and in Burkina Faso, where insecurity affected households' access to food; (iii) protracted crises, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and Yemen, where a combination of events including weather extremes and political and economic instability have required immediate interventions to support the most affected populations.

# Emergency livelihoods assistance to vulnerable smallholder farmers affected by drought in Afghanistan



## Contribution:

EUR 271 800 (USD 300 000)



## Beneficiaries:

5 200 households  
(40 040 people)



## Location:

Afghanistan



## Duration:

2018–2019



## Results:

5 200 households provided with a total of 520 tonnes of concentrated animal feed, 15.6 tonnes of fodder crop seed and 500 litres of livestock deworming medicine to protect 26 915 animals (2 043 calves and cattle, 14 036 sheep and 10 836 goats), and enable the cultivation of 520 ha of land with fodder crops;

beneficiary households trained on good livestock practices (i.e. livestock management and sustainable grazing), by first training 11 Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock extension workers and implementing partner staff.

In Afghanistan, where more than two-thirds of the population depend on agriculture-based livelihoods, cultivation relies heavily on rain and snowmelt accumulated during the winter season. In the 2017–2018 period, a winter drought devastated agriculture, further exacerbating underlying challenges to food security, including conflict and weak labour markets. In the 20 provinces most affected by the severe and widespread drought, shortages of food and fodder translated into massive unmet humanitarian needs. In Badghis province, 95 percent of the population reported a significant decrease in income due to the drought, and hundreds of thousands of people were pushed to crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity.

With contributions from Belgium through the SFERA AIRC window, FAO successfully protected and restored the livestock-based livelihoods of drought-affected families in Badghis province. This was achieved through the distribution of concentrated animal feed, fast-growing fodder crop seeds and deworming medicine for small and large ruminants, and the provision of training on livestock husbandry best practices. The project enabled 5 200 drought-affected households to protect their core breeding animals, produce food for consumption and generate income, ultimately improving food security and nutrition while increasing resilience. The training opportunities, meanwhile, helped ensure optimal use of the inputs distributed and promoted good livestock practices across the targeted districts.

## Contribution to the SDGs:





## Safeguarding livestock-based livelihoods

More than 70 percent of the population in Badghis earn their income through agriculture. Following the 2017–2018 drought, vulnerable people were facing emergency food insecurity levels and had lost almost all of their income sources. Abdul Basir, a resident of Masoomi village, Laman region, Badghis province, was one of the many people coping with the drought. He is disabled and the sole breadwinner for his family of 12. “We have only one cow as our source of income. We support ourselves by selling milk and dairy products,” said Abdul.

“Recently, because of the severe drought in our village, I was unable to feed my cow. So, I decided to sell it. But then I was given two 50 kg bags of animal fodder. I was also given fodder seed, which prevented me from selling my sole livestock,” he added. “I am thankful for this intervention and I hope that this respected organization continues its generous work for the needy people,” Abdul hoped.



# Protecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations affected by Tropical Cyclone Idai in Mozambique



## Contribution:

EUR 204 129 (USD 225 309)



## Beneficiaries:

17 690 households  
(88 450 people)



## Location:

Mozambique



## Duration:

March 2019–  
September 2019



## Results:

17 690 households received a crop kit for a total of 117.6 tonnes of maize seeds and 6.2 tonnes of bean seeds procured and distributed;

5 040 ha of land planted, contributing 10% of the season's production, allowing households to restore production and fill the food gap of the lean season;

2 850 tonnes of maize produced, covering up to 85% of a household's cereal needs until the next harvest, and 120 tonnes of beans produced, covering a household's consumption needs for a year and obtaining income from the surplus bean production after consumption (68.5 kg).

During the year 2019, Mozambique was affected by two major and successive cyclones. The impact of both natural disasters exacerbated an unravelling humanitarian situation as a result of flooding in the centre and northern parts of the country and prevailing drought conditions in the south.

The Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall on the city of Beira in mid-March 2019, moving inland, affecting the provinces of Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia in the central region of the country. Six weeks later, Cyclone Kenneth hit, affecting the north of the country for the very first time. These disasters left an estimated 2.24 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The government-led Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, in which FAO took part, indicated that up to 3 000 km<sup>2</sup> of land were submerged, over 58 600 houses damaged, and 400 000 people displaced.

Thanks to Belgium's contribution through the SFERA AIRC window, FAO was able to offer time-critical and much needed support to cyclone-affected populations in Manica and Sofala provinces. The project was conceived and implemented within the framework of FAO's Cyclone Idai Response Programme for Mozambique. It targeted vulnerable families that had lost all their production and their means of production and reserves, through the provision of agricultural kits that included seeds and tools. Collaboration with other agencies, such as the World Food Programme, in harmonizing the seed and food distributions was key to reaching more beneficiaries with better agricultural inputs and in a timely manner, as well as to make better use of personnel and logistics, and ensure effective coordination.

## Contribution to the SDGs:





## Seed kits cushion harvest losses in Mozambique

Tomás is a smallholder farmer from Lamego, in Mozambique's Sofala province. At 43, he, his wife and their eight children had lost all the crops they would have harvested to cover their needs until the next main agricultural season started. They have a farm of two hectares that usually produces maize, rice and sorghum — essential staples for the family's food and income. When Cyclone Idai tore through this central province, it took with it hundreds of lives and the means of earning a living for hundreds of thousands of already vulnerable people.

The floods and high winds completely wiped out Tomás' produce, alongside at least 500 000 hectares of cropland that were destroyed across the country. The kits provided by the project helped farmers get their crops back in the ground. Asked about what the seeds meant for him, he said, "Everything is gone. We are depending on this. But I can do it, I have to do it."

The agricultural kits the families received from FAO allowed them to reap their crops in just 90 days. In a country that has repeatedly paid a heavy price from cyclical droughts and flooding, and where nearly 1.8 million people were already estimated to be severely food insecure before this disaster, the kits opened a narrow but critical window of opportunity to stave off a further crisis, and ensure they could feed themselves in the short term.



# Emergency seed distribution in response to the drought in the Syrian Arab Republic



## Contribution:

**EUR 362 400 (USD 400 000)**



## Beneficiaries:

**1 850 households  
(11 100 people)**



## Location:

**Syrian Arab Republic**



## Duration:

**2018–2019**



## Results:

**1 850 households provided with certified wheat seed (200 kg per household) enough to plant 1 ha of land each. Total production was 3 700 tonnes of wheat — 2 670 tonnes from irrigated areas and 1 030 tonnes from rainfed areas;**

**185 beneficiaries received Training of Trainers on good agricultural practices: land preparation, crop management in the field and post harvest management.**

The long crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic has significantly limited food production, marketing and imports, and drastically eroded food security and the livelihoods of local populations. A clear evidence of the dire situation of the agriculture sector and its impact on the food and nutrition security was the level of wheat production in 2018 — the lowest since 1989. The 2018 cropping season can be described as one of the worse in recent history as it suffered from adverse weather conditions (drought and heavy rains), which were exacerbated by limited access to good quality inputs and mechanization.

The areas planted with wheat were reduced by about a half compared with the two previous seasons. The domestic production of wheat was estimated to be 1.2 million tonnes in 2018, which is lower than the previous year and much lower than pre-crisis production levels. Many farmers left their land, while those who remained did not have access to quality seeds and inputs, which represented one of the biggest challenges for smallholders, together with the availability of water and fertilizers.

With contributions from Belgium through the SFERA AIRC window, FAO was able to support a total of 1 850 small-scale farmers in Al-Hasakeh and Dier-Ez-Zor by providing certified good quality wheat seed adapted to the agro-ecological zones targeted by the project. Activities were designed and implemented with a focus on gender: 32 percent of the supported households (590 households) were headed by women. These inputs allowed the production of a total of 3 700 tonnes of wheat.

According to the post-distribution assessment conducted through a third-party consultation company, about 97 percent of the beneficiaries have actually received and planted the seed. The remaining farmers have kept the seed to plant in the next cropping season for various reasons (difficulties to access labour, machinery and other inputs, etc.).

## Contribution to the SDGs:













# Acting early to mitigate the impact of disasters

The SFERA Early Action window enables the Organization to work with national governments and civil society to initiate anticipatory action for the agriculture and food security sectors. The objective is to protect or mitigate the impact of hazards on vulnerable communities and their livelihoods. The Early Action window anticipates a range of hazards, including climatic anomalies (e.g. droughts, floods and temperature extremes), pest and disease outbreaks (e.g. livestock and crop disease, locusts) and human-induced events (e.g. displacement).

There is growing evidence that anticipatory actions have the potential to reduce humanitarian impacts when a hazard strikes or reaches its peak. To date, country examples have shown that acting based on early warning information ahead of shocks has multiple proven benefits, which include, but are not limited to, curbing food insecurity and malnutrition, protecting livelihood assets, building resilience, and supporting the well-being of vulnerable families.

During the 2018–2019 period, and thanks to Belgium's allocation to the SFERA Early Action Fund, FAO was able to: (i) protect the livelihoods of rice farmers from drought in the Philippines; (ii) protect livestock assets by supplying animal feed and vaccinations in Niger; (iii) anticipate and mitigate the impact of *El Niño*-driven drought on the agricultural livelihoods and assets of vulnerable farmers in Madagascar and Malawi.

To demonstrate the case for acting early, FAO invested in generating empirical evidence on the cost-effectiveness of early action. Over the course of the 2018–2019 period, the impact of Belgium-funded early actions was analysed in Mongolia, Sudan and the Philippines. Across these three countries, for every USD invested by FAO, households had a return ranging from USD 7.1 (Mongolia) to USD 6.7 (Sudan) and USD 4.4 (the Philippines) in avoided losses and added benefits. These empirical studies further add to the growing body of evidence on the importance of anticipatory action, and provide a critical insight into the value for money of acting before an anticipated crisis has become a humanitarian disaster.

# Acting early to mitigate the impact of drought on vulnerable rice farmers in the Philippines



## Contribution:

EUR 362 400 (USD 400 000)



## Beneficiaries:

1 500 households



## Location:

the Philippines



## Duration:

2018–2019



## Results:

50 small-scale irrigation units installed for 1 500 rice farming households;

186 people employed in cash-for-work activities to upgrade irrigation systems;

28 000 kg of drought-resistant certified rice seed and 25 000 kg of fertilizer distributed to 700 rice farmers;

supported the development and integration of EWEA in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans for Agriculture in five municipalities;

600 households provided with ducks and feed, goats and a goat barn, and 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> of goat pasture areas and mallard duck ponds fenced to enhance livestock production;

34 farmers trained on goat and mallard duck production and management.

During the past *El Niño* in 2015–2016, drought caused an estimated USD 325 million in damage to crops in Mindanao (the breadbasket of the Philippines) — this happening against the backdrop of continuing civil unrest. Recognizing the persistent threat of drought in the region, FAO established an EWEA system in February 2018 to monitor the recurring hazard.

Thanks to Belgium's contribution through the SFERA Early Action window, FAO acted early, before the peak of the drought in April 2019, to mitigate the impact of drought on vulnerable rice farmers. The aim was to safeguard rice production and diversify livelihood activities. This was achieved through the timely provision of agricultural inputs (including high-quality seeds, fertilizers and livestock), the installation of small-scale irrigation systems, the establishment of demonstration farms to showcase integrated crop and livestock productions systems, and a series of capacity building activities (including on vegetable production and sustainable farming techniques) in North Cotabato and Maguindanao. The production of nutritious foods that resulted from the project improved beneficiaries' food security and nutrition.

FAO conducted a return-on-investment study comparing beneficiaries with non-beneficiaries to better gauge the impact of early action. In Maguindanao, the analysis showed that for every USD FAO spent, families reaped benefits worth USD 4.4. They saw fewer crops fail and harvested larger amounts of vegetables than families that did not have the same drought-tolerant seeds and had not received training. Beneficiary families also cultivated larger plots of land and grew a wider variety of vegetables than non-beneficiaries. In all, each beneficiary family harvested about 182 kg of vegetables during the project, which was critical for nutrition and food security. Additionally, ducks added a new income stream, as beneficiary families made a net profit of USD 17 each from the eggs they collected. In the case of Cotabato, farmers credited the support with getting their rice production back on track and preventing them from taking on debt to do so. Additionally, improvements to water supply in their community and their homes made them feel confident about their rice yields.

Overall, by acting early, farmers were able to maintain an acceptable diet despite the failed rains, indebtedness was reduced, and stress within the household was decreased because the drought did not turn into an existential crisis for the family. Through the project, FAO further supported an information, education and communication campaign to prepare and plan for *El Niño* in Mindanao.

## Contribution to the SDGs:



## Making women and men equal partners in early action brings benefits beyond food security

Rice farming and freshwater fishing have been mainstays for Tintin Sulaiman and her family of three, but both activities rely on the constant flow of water. “My husband usually does the fishing,” she says. They have two talik (a type of traditional fish trap) that, on lucky days, bring in around 100 fish. “But our main source of income is rice — my husband works hard in the fields.” This year was different, though. The rains were sparse and water flow into the rice fields was limited.

However, thanks to FAO’s support, Tintin’s family was able to withstand the crisis. “FAO gave me seeds and a space in the nursery with a cooperative where I learned how to grow seedlings, so we were much better off.” The seeds were drought-tolerant and could yield with little water. Tintin now divides her time between the community farm, where she works collectively with other families, and her own vegetable garden at home, which has become a point of pride for her. In addition to vegetables, she sells duck eggs — another income source she was able to build thanks to the 10 ducks she received through the early action project. Her family is eating healthier than before, an important point since she is pregnant with her second child.

Halfway into the FAO intervention, Tintin’s family was also evacuated because of violent clashes, and as a consequence her husband Saidin was unable to visit his rice field. However, thanks to the project’s cash-for-work component, Saidin was able to have an alternative source of income. Furthermore, Tintin was keen to contribute financially as well, releasing some of the burden from her husband. “I manage the money. When my husband finishes work he brings his earnings to me,” she says. “Now, I can help. Instead of my husband giving me money to buy things for the house, I can get it. I feel empowered — I am helping with the household.”

“Over the last few months we have been on and off in the barangay halls. We can come to our house during the day, but we always have to return when the military say,” she explains. “We cannot go to the market, so it was useful to quickly go to my garden and harvest fresh food. I don’t want my baby to eat processed foods. So I would cook eggplant and okra to take with us.”

Tintin is keen on saving even during the conflict. “I don’t want to spend money on buying food, I want to save. Thankfully, I could harvest my food quickly.” For now, she is saving for emergency needs while she is pregnant. “Eventually, I hope I can save enough so my daughter can finish school.”







# Bridging the humanitarian–development–peace nexus through resilience building

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without resilient livelihoods. People around the world are increasingly exposed to natural hazards and crises — from droughts, floods, earthquakes and disease epidemics to conflict, market shocks and complex, protracted crises.

The recurrence of disasters and crises undermines countries' efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and to achieve sustainable development, often opening the doors to conflict and instability. People relying on farming, livestock, forests or fishing for their food and income — around one-third of the world's population — are often the most vulnerable and affected. Climate change, and in particular extreme weather-related shocks, is exacerbating the situation.

Combining efforts to restore and support resilient livelihoods with peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive interventions is critical. FAO, with the support of partners like Belgium, places great emphasis on increasing resilience, combining humanitarian assistance and development actions to assist countries to prevent and cope more effectively with threats and disasters that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition. By addressing the root causes of risks and crises and focusing on risk prevention, real progress can be made in achieving a world free from hunger.

Belgium's ongoing support is increasing FAO's capacity to harness the complex relationships among food crises, agriculture-based livelihoods, long-term development and peace. Maintaining food production and rebuilding the agriculture sector are fundamental to preventing the loss of lives from severe hunger and to providing a pathway towards resilience, recovery and ultimately development.

# Reviving food production and boosting social cohesion in the Greater Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



## Contribution:

EUR 4.3 million (USD 4.7 million)



## Beneficiaries:

14 000 households  
(84 000 people)



## Location:

DRC



## Duration:

2017–2019



## Results:

market gardening kits provided to 6 700 households, enabling an average production of 80 kg per household;

3 500 households provided with crop production kits, enabling an average production of 180 kg per household;

1 300 households sustainably increased their access to seeds and planting materials;

800 households sustainably increased their access to animal protein;

families with malnourished children improved their dietary diversity and caloric intake.

Between 2016 and 2017, conflict in the Grand Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulted in an acute humanitarian crisis and massive human rights violations. In recent years, food and nutrition crises in Kasai have become more frequent and more severe, mainly due to the high prices of food items and low supply in local markets as a result — among other factors — of poor infrastructures throughout the country. Improved seeds have been largely unavailable at the local level, consecutive agricultural seasons have been missed, crops and tools have been lost as people were displaced, and looting, ransacking and the destruction of fields have led to the loss of farmers' seed reserves.

Thanks to Belgium's support, FAO engaged in a joint response with WFP to save lives, protect livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of internally displaced, returnee and host families in Greater Kasai.

Through an integrated approach targeting the same beneficiaries, FAO and WFP worked together to meet immediate food needs while restoring agricultural production. Through its component of the project, FAO provided vulnerable households with market gardening kits containing seeds and tools to enable quick access to fruit and vegetables for consumption and sale on the market. Other households received crop production kits, containing cereal and legume seeds as well as tools. Seed multiplication support targeting host family groups provided families with a sustainable source of seeds and planting materials. Additional household groups received animal husbandry training, increasing over time their groups' access to vital animal protein and an additional source of income. Finally, FAO provided technical support to vulnerable families whose malnourished children attended nutritional rehabilitation structures in order to diversify their diets and increase their caloric intake.

## Contribution to the SDGs:





## Rapid response to alleviate hunger and malnutrition

Sophie Ntumba, 36 years old, is a widow and mother of seven, living in Ngandu Kawayá village, Kamonia territory in Kasai Province. “My husband was beheaded by the militiamen and left me alone with seven children. Life in the region had become very complicated, especially as I had to carry my family’s financial burden in terms of food and school fees. One of my children, the youngest, had become malnourished for lack of adequate and sufficient food.”

“With the support of FAO, I was able to access the seeds I needed during different seed fairs organized by the project. Today, apart from providing us with enough food on a daily basis, my crops have allowed me to create a stock of corn (20 kg) and cowpeas (35 kg) to eat when there is an emergency. Also, as we have benefited from seeds of very good quality which grow quickly (short cycles), I always keep part of my crops as seeds for my field. Finally, I bought three guinea pigs by selling part of my cowpea harvest (10 kg) and today I already have seven guinea pigs.”



# Protecting and rehabilitating the rural livelihoods of people affected by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti



## Contribution:

**EUR 3 million (USD 3.3 million)**



## Beneficiaries:

**28 746 households**



## Location:

**Haiti**



## Duration:

**2016–2019**



## Results:

**7 500 households provided with seeds and planting material;**

**20 small-scale production groups trained (6 362 households) on quality seed production;**

**technical support and seeds provided to 15 vegetable producer associations (2 570 households);**

**milk processing rehabilitated through support to dairy farms;**

**870 sick animals (belonging to 203 agropastoralists) treated by mobile veterinary clinics;**

**income increased for 1 278 fisherfolk (from USD 120 to USD 361/month) and 183 members of agricultural product processing associations.**

In October 2016, Category 4 Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti, resulting in the near total loss of agricultural production, and devastating the livelihoods of people dependent on agriculture, livestock and fisheries. In the South and Grande Anse Departments, over 75 percent of the population was affected by the damage or destruction of plots of crops, farm equipment, food stocks, livestock and fishing equipment, agricultural infrastructure and roads.

With financial support from Belgium, FAO was instrumental in the protection, rehabilitation and diversification of affected populations' agriculture-based livelihoods. The provision of basic agricultural inputs — either through direct distributions or through seed fair vouchers — revived agricultural production, resulting in the production of 3 123 tonnes of cereals, legumes and tubers (valued at USD 4.4 million). Seed and vegetable producer groups received inputs and technical support that enabled them to produce, respectively: (i) 699 tonnes of cereal and pulse seeds; 25.4 million cassava and sweet potato cuttings; 103 680 banana suckers and 560 000 mini yam kits; and (ii) 2 127 tonnes of vegetables (valued at USD 3.6 million).

As a result, beneficiaries were able to meet their families' dietary needs for three to six months. Through technical and financial support, the project also helped to diversify the income sources of vulnerable households (grouped into various associations of farmers, fisherfolk and livestock breeders). Farmer Field Schools (FFS) were established for increasing the capacities of 1 100 farmers on market gardening, regeneration of cocoa trees, conservation agriculture, among others; while 214 lead trainers and 4 240 beneficiaries were trained on good nutritional practices, hygiene and food preparation. Cash-for-work activities benefited 9 896 households with limited access to agricultural land, providing them with immediate cash relief, while the creation and supervision of 19 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) — made up of 539 people — under the project will help to ensure the good management of savings in the longer term.

## Contribution to the SDGs:





## Restoring the food security of farmers and herders

Rosemide Darius, a 30 years old and mother of two, lives in the Commune of Jérémie, department of Grande Anse. She is a farmer, member of the Mouvman Zantray Peyizan Organization (MOZAP). Like most people in her town, Hurricane Matthew destroyed all her livelihood.

"After the hurricane, my family's situation became very complicated and difficult. I lost my meagre resources and even the family home was destroyed, including the little food that was in it. FAO was the first organization to assist our women's association. It brought us invaluable support on several levels: assistance with seeds and agricultural tools, and also technical assistance from its agronomists, so that our vegetable gardening became very productive thanks to the biological control of plant diseases. In addition to improving the family diet, the sale of surplus vegetables allowed me to have an income for the education of my children. Thanks to FAO and Belgium," she says.



# Providing emergency agricultural assistance to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities affected by crises in the Central African Republic



**Contribution:**  
**EUR 1 million (USD 1.2 million)**



**Beneficiaries:**  
**13 650 households**



**Location:**  
**Central African Republic**



**Duration:**  
**2017–2019**



**Results:**

**crop production kits provided to 6 350 households for the 2018 cropping season;**

**market gardening kits provided to 6 300 households;**

**farmer field schools established to train beneficiaries on agricultural techniques;**

**40 resilience funds representing a total of 1 000 households established or reinforced;**

**food security and nutrition surveillance and early warning systems strengthened.**

The resurgence of violence in the prefectures of Ouaka, Nana Mambéré, Basse Kotto, Ouham and Mbomou has resulted in massive population displacements, disruption of livelihoods, destruction of means of production and breakdown of the social fabric. Due to the pressure on already limited resources, families in areas hosting displaced people have been forced to consume their food stocks and even seeds, pushing them towards dependence on food aid. Reviving the agricultural sector in these areas was of vital importance to enable households to quickly produce their own food.

Thanks to Belgium, FAO implemented a project to provide emergency agricultural assistance to vulnerable households through the distribution of agricultural inputs, seed fairs, capacity building on crop and vegetable production, the establishment of VSLAs, and the strengthening of early warning systems and support to the Integrated Food Security Classification analysis. Thanks to the assistance provided, beneficiary households were able to plant a total of 3 175 ha (on average 0.5 ha per household), producing an average of 500 kg of food per household.

As a result of the crop production (each containing 31 kg of peanut, corn, rice and sesame seeds, and three hoes) kits, households were able to meet their own food needs for four to six months, and sell the remaining production to generate an average income of USD 250 per household. The market gardening campaign (which included the provision of kits containing 50 g of mixed vegetable seeds and five tools, including shovels, rakes, watering cans and hoes) made it possible to develop a total area of 630 ha (roughly 0.10 ha per household), with each household producing an average of 300 kg of vegetables and generating an average income of USD 225. Through the VSLAs established under the project, the participating women and young people successfully saved an estimated USD 20 000. Finally, the project contributed to strengthening the area's food and nutrition surveillance and early warning system, which enabled the collection of reliable data for two cycles of analyses of the IPC framework, and the publication of newsletters on rainfall and vegetation.

## Contribution to the SDGs:





## Resilience funds help break precariousness and boost productivity

Berte Fiosse is the head of Matabissi, a mixed group which had 25 members in 2018. Cultivator and mother of six, her husband lost his job during the crisis. But, despite everything, Berte remained very involved in her group because, according to her, the activities of the FFS and the VSLAs, of which she is a beneficiary, can allow her to hope for a better future. During the 2018 agricultural season, she had given herself a new mission: to enrol her children in school and help her husband build a house for the family.

Berte explains, "The crisis has completely ruined me and my family. My husband lost his job, our children were no longer attending school and my production fell sharply due to difficulties in accessing quality seeds, lack of tools and the poor conditions of the roads leading to our village. But, I can say that a miracle happened when the NGO AFEB, in partnership with FAO, first came to identify us for labour-intensive work. We then received agricultural kits and benefited from training on the Resilience Fund which allowed us to restart our activities. My children have returned to school today, my production of peanuts, corn and squash has returned to its pre-crisis level and the construction of our house is advancing rapidly. I am happy to live this new life with the Resilience Fund. Note that with the agricultural kits received, I obtained 150 kg of shelled peanuts, 200 kg of corn and 40 kg of squash produced on a total area of 0.5 ha. I am very satisfied with the support of FAO, that allowed me to sell the surplus of production — with which I earned XOF 95 000 (around USD 190) — ensure a food reserve for three to four months after the harvest, pay for my children's school supplies and keep part of the crops as seeds for the next planting season."



# Reducing the vulnerability of agricultural livelihoods through the *Caisses de Résilience* approach in the Sahel



## Contribution:

EUR 4 million (USD 4.5 million)



## Beneficiaries:

5 000 households



## Location:

Regional Africa



## Duration:

2016–2019



## Results:

cash, together with agricultural and livestock inputs (seeds, fertilizers, tools, goats, feed, veterinary products, and in some cases poultry) provided to 5 000 households to meet immediate needs and rehabilitate livelihoods;

beneficiaries' knowledge of resilient practices improved, increasing their agricultural and pastoral productivity and their income;

beneficiaries' savings and credit capacity strengthened through Village Savings and Loan Associations;

*Caisse de Résilience* approach promoted and capacities at national and regional levels strengthened for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and capitalization.

## Contribution to the SDGs:



Millions of people in the Sahel live below the poverty line and are affected by recurrent shocks that adversely impact their food security and nutrition. In rural areas, access to food is an ongoing challenge, and vulnerable populations spend more than half of their income on food. In the face of crisis, households exhaust their meagre resources and are subsequently unable to rebuild their assets.

Thanks to Belgium's resources, an FAO project in Burkina Faso and Mali worked to strengthen the resilience of livelihoods to climatic hazards through the *Caisse de Résilience* approach. This approach is centred upon three pillars aimed at building community resilience — technical, social and financial. The combination of these three dimensions has a multiplier effect on the livelihoods of the communities concerned, as it allows for the accumulation and diversification of families' assets, knowledge and incomes. As a result, it simultaneously helps to improve households' risk management capacities while enabling them to better take advantage of local economic opportunities. In each of the targeted countries, households organized themselves into agropastoral field schools where they were trained on resilient agriculture and pastoral techniques.

In each country, 2 500 households received cash transfers to cover their basic needs during the lean season, along with agricultural inputs to strengthen their productive capacities, and participated in VSLAs. Through this combination of activities, families were able to reduce their recourse to harmful coping strategies and strengthen their food security in the face of shocks. Final surveys in both countries showed a clear improvement in food and nutritional indicators, an increase in households' productive assets, and the strengthening of savings and credit capacities.

In 2019, an evaluation was conducted on the project, reaching four main conclusions:

- Food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in targeted areas was improved, while the adoption of good agricultural practices — on which households had been trained by the project — increased productivity and income. Financial training enhanced saving and credit capacities and led to a cultural change in the communities, reinforcing social cohesion;
- The FFS approach facilitated the implementation of the technical, financial and social components of the *Caisse de Résilience* approach which, combined with CASH+ activities, were easily adopted by the targeted communities;
- Sustainability was promoted by the beneficiaries, who were committed to strengthening the project's results and continuing to use the knowledge acquired;
- The targeting of beneficiaries took place through a consultative and participatory process and was effective in identifying the most vulnerable households.



## Supporting families during the lean season

Nabelou Sandmio Yalcouye lives in the village of Sougui. As a mother of five and a widow, she no longer has the capacity or the means to meet her basic needs without help.

Nabelou is a beneficiary of the *Caisses de Résilience* programme implemented by FAO, and has received agricultural inputs and cash (CFA 50 000) as part of the distribution. She says, "Agriculture is the main livelihood activity of the household. During this lean season, we were often faced with a lack of cereals, which means that we had to restrict ourselves on the food plan to pass the lean season."

Nevertheless, with FAO's assistance she was able to meet the needs of the household because the training she received in good agricultural practices and seeds (cowpea, millet, sorghum, cabbage, carrot, shallot, potato, etc.) enabled his brother to sow more and have an increase in the production of his field. "We thus had more reserves for the lean period. In addition, we also sold a part, and we used the cash to buy more food for the season."

Nabelou went on to say, "I actively participated in our VSLA set up by FAO. My family received support from the solidarity fund of our association, and it was the first time that I saw a large amount worth CFA 8 650, which represented my nine-month savings contribution. Furthermore, thanks to the increase in our agricultural productions, our new income-generating activities (market gardening and cereal trade) and the trust built among us, the second year all the members of the association were able to save more. This year I saved almost twice the amount of the previous year."









# Providing sustainable solutions through innovation

FAO believes that innovation in general, and particularly in agriculture, is the central driving force to achieve a world free from hunger and malnutrition. At a time of rising hunger, when bridges between humanitarian and development assistance are needed, innovation is crucial, especially when threats to food security are complex and multiform.

In this context, FAO assists countries in unlocking the potential of innovation to drive socio-economic growth, ensure food and nutrition security, alleviate poverty and improve resilience to climate change, thereby helping to achieve the SDGs.

Building on its newly established Office for Innovation, FAO, together with its partners, will continue to scale up innovative methods in agriculture, including precision and digital agriculture, enhanced early warning systems, remote sensing technologies and climate neutral approaches.

In the 2018–19 period, in partnership with Belgium and in line with the Belgium Humanitarian Aid Strategy aimed at promoting innovation, FAO was able to test innovative new technologies and tools to build resilience in some of the most complex contexts, such as the Gaza Strip and the fight against Fall Armyworm in Africa.

# Risk mapping, monitoring and early warning to combat Fall Armyworm in Africa



## Contribution:

**EUR 1 million (USD 1.16 million)**



## Beneficiaries:

**smallholder farmers, national FAW taskforces, subregional and public institutions related to agriculture**



## Location:

**Global**



## Duration:

**2018–2019**



## Results:

**core technical tools developed, and guidance and training undertaken on FAMEWS, FAWRisk-Map, FAWImpact and FAWDashboard;**

**lessons learned from piloting fed into further development and application beyond the project (in East Timor and Mauritania in 2020);**

**FAW Monitoring Action Plans developed in 18 West African countries, and due to be further funded through the African Development Bank.**

Fall Armyworm (FAW) poses a serious threat to the food security of vulnerable smallholder farmers in Africa who rely heavily on crops such as maize, rice, sorghum and millet. There is an urgent need to provide the information and analysis necessary to allow decision-makers to prevent, prepare for and respond to the infestation of tens of millions of hectares of crops across the continent. For this reason, the project aimed at developing and rolling out a set of innovative tools that together comprise the FAW Monitoring System.

Support from Belgium contributed to FAO's efforts to develop the FAW Monitoring System to monitor the spread and impact of FAW on the food security of smallholder farmers in Africa, and promote the development of country level FAW Monitoring Action Plans, which mainstreamed some or all of these tools in national FAW programmes. Funding was allocated to support five pilot countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Somalia, Tanzania) in training, hardware and application of the tools so as to operationalise the plans. The project enabled the development of FAW Monitoring Action Plans in 18 West African countries. These plans are due to be funded through a USD 50 million African Development Bank project from 2020 to 2023.

The Belgian support enabled not just the generation of innovative products, but crucially their application and further uptake. The FAW Monitoring System consists of four innovative complementary tools to manage the FAW threat:

- FAW Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) facilitates field-level monitoring of FAW prevalence via an application for smartphones, which incorporates artificial intelligence identification software and links to a global platform for mapping and analysis of FAW infestations. This information is then used to help guide farmers and governments in their prevention, preparedness and response efforts against FAW infestations. Data collected through FAMEWS complements the FAWRisk-Map;
- FAW Risk Model and Map (FAWRisk-Map) determines the risk of food insecurity due to FAW infestations in specific areas of Africa. It does so by incorporating information on FAW exposure alongside vulnerability data (i.e. measures of chronic poverty and coping capacity). Whilst FAW infestation and food insecurity risk data is central to FAW management, it is the actual impact of FAW on crop production which represents the main concern for farmers and governments alike;
- FAW impact assessment toolkit (FAWImpact) comprises a set of three field-level surveys, administered using cell phones with data stored on a cloud-based server. The methodology used is believed to generate the most accurate yield loss data outside of field research plots;
- FAW reporting dashboard (FAWDashboard) brings together information from all the other tools, combines it with other data on funding and FAW management, and presents this in an easy-to-understand dashboard for decision-makers.

## Contribution to the SDGs:









# Solar energy to protect and restore agricultural productive capacities and livelihoods in the Gaza Strip



## Contribution:

**EUR 1 million (USD 1.16 million)**



## Beneficiaries:

**671 households  
(3 824 people)**



## Location:

**Gaza Strip**



## Duration:

**2018–2019**



## Results:

**irrigation wells and water towers servicing 515 households equipped with solar-powered pumping systems;**

**solar energy units installed for 36 household water harvesting ponds;**

**poultry layer farms belonging to 82 households supported with solar energy systems to maintain essential lighting for egg production, and support was provided to broiler farms;**

**38 household dairy farms supported with solar energy units for the operation of portable milking machines.**

For more than a decade, Gaza has experienced chronic electricity shortages, leading to devastating impacts on agriculture-based livelihoods and food production. In 2018, Gaza's power plant was on the verge of ceasing operations due to fuel deficiency. Since then, emergency fuel supply to operate the power plant has been regularly supported by international donors, providing some respite to the situation but no long-term solution.

Gaza's electricity crisis impacts the production capacities of farmers, limiting agricultural production and subsequently food security and the livelihoods of an already vulnerable population. Building on years of conflict and the continued blockade of the Gaza Strip, the area's electricity supply has been insufficient and unreliable, with residents receiving power for just a few hours a day. In this context, the testing of innovative approaches to address residents' energy needs has been gaining ground, with the installation of renewable power supply systems for agricultural use seen as a vital parallel source of energy, enabling greater autonomy, enhancing resilience and reducing reliance on external factors.

Thanks to Belgian funding, FAO provided time-critical support to save agricultural livelihoods in Gaza by addressing critical electricity shortages through renewable solar energy sources. Farmers received support to equip their irrigation wells and water harvesting ponds with solar-powered pumping systems to enable better crop production through the efficient irrigation of agricultural land. In addition, dairy and poultry farmers received solar energy units to help them to maintain normal levels of egg, meat and milk production, thereby building resilience among local farmers. Beneficiaries were also trained on irrigation management and solar panel management, ensuring the sustainability and continuity of the gains made through the project.

The initiative contributed to the Palestinian Solar Initiative, which aims to meet 30 percent of energy demands from renewable sources by 2020, and to the sustainable development goal of ensuring access to clean, affordable energy for all.

## Contribution to the SDGs:



## Restoring the productive capacities of vulnerable families in the Gaza Strip

Suleiman Tabash is a dairy farmer from Gaza who owns four cows and four calves. Suleiman earns his main income from processing and selling dairy products. With an unemployment rate of 45 percent, only one of Suleiman's eight children has been able to secure employment in Gaza. His son's job, however, is not profitable, as he works for Gaza's largest employer, the Palestinian Authority, which applied salary cuts up to 60 percent to thousands of its employees in April 2017. This has left 63-year-old Suleiman as the sole breadwinner of the family of ten.

Business has not always been good for Suleiman and his family, who wake up at dawn each day to commence their productive activities. The equipment for milking cows, and processing and preserving dairy products requires consistent electricity supply; however, the electricity supply in Gaza is far from regular. The family has had to use a diesel generator, which costs an average of USD 5 per day to operate, to ensure the continuation of their farm activities. The generator's operating costs cut into Suleiman's profit and greatly reduced revenues, decreasing the viability of the family business.

Under the project, Suleiman and his family received solar panels to power their milking machine and the refrigerator that they use, and ensure their dairy products remain fresh during blackouts. He also received training that enabled him and the other 200 farmers that benefited from the project to operate the solar systems in their farms. "Currently we are getting eight more hours of electricity per day as a result of the installed solar power system," said Suleiman. "This is particularly crucial in the summer months, when the processed cheese needs to be kept in the refrigerator to increase its shelf-life and to avoid losses."

For Suleiman, the solar energy system has not only decreased production costs and increased profit; it has also allowed him to finally get rid of the diesel generator which was "constantly breaking down and making a dreadful noise."







# Improving food security and nutrition

After decades of steady advances in the global fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, we are now witnessing a reversal of the progress made: in the last two years, the number of undernourished people has increased to 821 million. In 2018, some 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, phases 3–5) requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. Climate change, a surge in the number and complexity of conflicts, and economic slowdowns are the main reasons behind the increase. The eight worst food crises in 2018 accounted for two-thirds of the total number of people facing acute food insecurity.

Eradicating hunger in all its forms — including hidden hunger, such as malnutrition — depends on our ability to ensure that our agricultural supply chains and the communities they serve are healthy, productive, sustainable and resilient. This means adopting production techniques that are smarter in the ways they use scarce natural resources and proactive

about environmental threats and weather changes. It also means involving national institutions in policies and actions that stimulate the production and consumption of nutritious food, and in ensuring the safety of products for human consumption. In short, it requires a significant transformation of agriculture and food systems through a coordinated global effort with a long-term perspective.

FAO, together with partners like Belgium, coordinates work on nutrition to protect, promote and improve nutrition-sensitive food systems. With a focus on the relationship between agriculture and nutrition, FAO and Belgium work to ensure that agricultural development is people-centred, leading to improved access, availability and consumption of food for better nutrition. What is more, FAO generates and disseminates evidence about food systems, assists decision-makers in governments to develop policies, and improves consumer knowledge and awareness of healthy diets.

# Food Security and Nutrition Programme for Gaza Province



## Contribution:

EUR 2.4 million (USD 2.6 million)



## Beneficiaries:

Smallholders, teachers and school students, health technicians, government and non-governmental agencies



## Location:

Mozambique



## Duration:

2013–2019



## Results:

smallholders' technical and organizational capacities improved for agriculture and livestock production and marketing;

communities assisted in improving sustainable utilization of natural resources;

smallholders assisted in accessing available local development funds;

nutrition status and dietary intake improved through nutrition education.

In 2010, Mozambique was selected to participate in a food security programme to be financed by the Belgian Fund for Food Security. A subsequent study conducted in Gaza province on the food security and nutrition situation found profound evidence of scarce financial and material resources, a shortage of trained extension professionals, high vulnerability to disasters, insufficient infrastructure for water supplies, weak community and private associative development. The resulting development strategy for the province identified increased agricultural productivity and diversification, improved health and education services, equitable access to natural resources, and soil and water conservation programmes as top priorities.

With resources from Belgium, FAO implemented a project aimed at developing the capacity of farmers, improving their production and animal husbandry systems, and strengthening the various organizations and systems at district, provincial and national levels.

Through FFSs, farmers were empowered to identify improved technologies adapted to their specific agro-ecological and socio-economic situations, including improved varieties, soil fertility management practices, integrated pest management, water management, herd dynamics management and sustainable rangeland utilization, improved production of small stock (goats, sheep and chickens), animal traction for production and transport, and improved disease prevention and control. Aspects related to land tenure and natural resource management were included in the FFS curriculum, alongside topics in post-harvest handling, storage and marketing. The project also built the capacity of communities to sustainably manage natural resources in order to contribute to the diversification of income sources. This was done by establishing community management committees and assisting them to undertake participatory forestry inventories and prepare simplified management plans.

The committees were also assisted in identifying and providing training on sustainable economic forestry activities (food, medicinal plants, beekeeping) as a means of diversifying incomes. Finally, improved education and communication materials relating to nutrition and health were developed, disseminated and applied through 75 primary schools, 200 FFS groups and other community-based organizations.

## Contribution to the SDGs:











# Enhancing global food governance

Every woman, man and child on the planet depends on the world's food and agricultural systems as a core prerequisite for health and well-being. Ensuring that everybody can access nutrients to sustain life is a fundamental responsibility of human societies. However, ensuring that food systems grow and develop in ways that can meet the needs of all people is a task best achieved through well-developed cooperation including trade, innovation and investment, as well as shared rules for safety and fairness in all aspects of production, distribution and consumption.

FAO and Belgium share a commitment to strive for safe food for all. One of the most tangible ways in which the Organization contributes to the daily lives of people around the world consists in developing and promoting international standards around the production and trade of food. From food labelling to the safe flow of plant products, 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 and Belgium's missions to strengthen national institutions and global food governance.

Belgium's contributions to FAO strengthen efforts to boost international standards and frameworks through three major vehicles: the Codex Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. As host of the governing bodies of these three major covenants, FAO facilitates countries' participation in these intergovernmental mechanisms and lends its institutional resources and expertise to further their success.



## 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 among various National and Regional Plant Protection Organizations to implement the rules set out in the agreement. Belgium has provided regular technical support to the work of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures and the different IPPC initiatives. In addition, as part of the 2020 International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) promoted by the IPPC, Belgium is issuing a two-euro commemorative coin with the IYPH logo.

## Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The CFS has been central to global governance in food and nutrition security since its reform in 2009, and is one of the priorities for collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies. The CFS constitutes the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for governments and a broad range of other stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards eliminating hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all. Belgium is attending the plenary sessions and taking part in the discussion under some of the CFS workstreams.







## Codex Alimentarius

Belgium is a strong supporter of the Codex Alimentarius, which plays an important role in ensuring the safety, quality and fairness of the international food trade by setting international standards, guidelines and codes of practice. Codex's broad scope — covering areas such as contaminants, nutrition, food hygiene, food labelling, additives, antimicrobial resistance, and pesticide and veterinary drug residues — makes it an essential part of achieving food security and zero hunger. Public concern about food safety, meanwhile, often places Codex at the centre of global debates.

## International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The International Plant Treaty facilitates the conservation, sustainable use and continued open exchange of food crops and their genetic materials among countries. This aims to ensure that farmers and researchers across the globe continue to have access to the world's most important crops and can utilize the valuable genetic traits found therein to strengthen food production. This includes making production systems more resistant to a changing climate. By the

end of 2019, more than 5 million samples of genetic diversity had been exchanged through the Treaty's Multilateral system, with users in Belgium receiving over 10 000 materials for research, breeding and training.

Under the provisions of the International Treaty, the Government of Belgium supports the hosting of a global safety backup cryopreservation facility at Kul-Biodiversity International Genebank for the world's crops that are not conserved through seeds, such as bananas, potatoes and cassava. This global facility will complete the global genetic resource conservation system, with active collections housed in CGIAR centres and national gene banks, and safety backups for seeds in Svalbard. In November 2019, the Treaty's Governing Body welcomed the proposal by the Government of Belgium to host the safety backup facility, recognizing that it is part of an overarching strategy for the long-term conservation of the world's food crops.

FAO remains a leading forum for countries to address the conservation of biodiversity for agriculture, including both plant and livestock genetics. Furthermore, flagship reports by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, also hosted by FAO, on the state of livestock genetic diversity worldwide remain among the most comprehensive reference tools for policy-makers and practitioners in donor and developing countries alike.

## Ongoing bilateral projects funded by Belgium (2018–2019)\*

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget**	Start date	End date	Location
OSRO/AFG/805/BEL	Emergency livelihoods assistance to vulnerable smallholder farmers affected by drought in Badghis	300 000	05/10/2018	04/02/2019	Afghanistan
OSRO/ANG/701/BEL	Emergency assistance in restoring food security and agricultural production in DRC refugees in northern Angola	100 000	01/12/2017	31/05/2018	Angola
OSRO/BGD/703/BEL	Emergency support for small-scale livestock farmers in flood-affected communities of Bangladesh	300 000	29/09/2017	14/09/2018	Bangladesh
OSRO/BKF/903/BEL	Réponse d'urgence à la crise alimentaire et nutritionnelle et renforcement de la résilience des ménages affectés par la situation sécuritaire au Burkina Faso	500 000	17/10/2019	16/10/2020	Burkina Faso
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	27/07/2017	26/01/2019	Central African Republic
OSRO/CHD/703/BEL	Réponse aux besoins humanitaires pastoraux suite à la crise Boko Haram au Tchad	300 000	01/07/2017	30/05/2018	Chad
OSRO/CHD/903/BEL	Agriculture sensible à la nutrition pour des familles dirigées par des femmes seules à charge d'enfants de moins de 5 ans à risque alimentaire	100 000	01/08/2019	31/07/2020	Chad
OSRO/CMR/703/BEL	Assistance d'urgence pour la protection des activités pastorales des ménages	300 000	01/07/2017	31/07/2018	Cameroon



Project symbol	Project title	Total budget**	Start date	End date	Location
OSRO/CMR/901/BEL	Réponse d'urgence aux réfugiés et personnes déplacées de la crise de Boko Haram sur le site de Goura dans le Logone et Chari	100 000	01/04/2019	30/09/2019	Cameroon
OSRO/CUB/702/BEL	Emergency support to rehabilitate food security and livelihoods of people affected by IRMA	300 000	12/10/2017	11/09/2018	Cuba
OSRO/CVI/802/BEL	Assistance d'urgence pour la relance des activités productives des ménages affectés par la sécheresse	220 855	01/01/2018	30/11/2018	Cabo Verde
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	01/11/2017	30/10/2018	Dominica
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	15/08/2017	30/06/2018	Democratic Republic of the Congo
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 Kasai	4 711 200	15/12/2017	14/12/2019	Democratic Republic of the Congo
OSRO/DRC/802/BEL	Réponse à l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle de 6 000 ménages (territoire de Lomela)	436 429	21/03/2018	20/09/2018	Democratic Republic of the Congo
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	01/08/2017	31/07/2018	Ethiopia

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

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

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget**	Start date	End date	Location
OSRO/GAZ/802/BEL	Solar energy to protect and restore agricultural productive capacities and livelihoods in the Gaza Strip	1 157 406	08/05/2018	08/11/2019	West Bank and Gaza Strip
OSRO/GLO/811/BEL	Risk Mapping, Monitoring, and Early Warning for early Action for a new threat — FAW in Africa	1 157 407	08/05/2018	08/11/2019	Global
OSRO/HAI/607/BEL	Protection, réhabilitation et diversification des moyens d'existence des populations affectées par l'ouragan Matthew en Haïti	3 279 482	01/12/2016	31/03/2019	Haiti
OSRO/INS/802/BEL	Emergency assistance for the post-earthquake and tsunami recovery in Central Sulawesi	200 000	01/11/2018	31/10/2019	Indonesia
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	20/10/2016	19/10/2018	Iraq
OSRO/KEN/702/BEL	Protecting livestock assets and safeguarding livelihoods in crossborder areas of the Mandera Cluster	400 000	15/04/2017	12/04/2018	Kenya
OSRO/KEN/703/BEL	Protecting livestock assets and safeguarding livelihoods in Turkana, Marsabit, Mandera and Wajir	500 001	10/08/2017	09/08/2018	Kenya
OSRO/KEN/803/BEL	Emergency feeding of livestock during drought to improve nutrition in Women & children under 5 Years	300 000	01/12/2018	30/11/2019	Kenya



Project symbol	Project title	Total budget**	Start date	End date	Location
OSRO/MAG/901/BEL	Appui aux ménages vulnérables pour soutenir et protéger leur moyens de subsistances dans le Sud de Madagascar	400 000	01/01/2019	30/06/2019	Madagascar
OSRO/MLW/901/BEL	Mitigating the looming impact of the 2018–19 <i>El Niño</i> on vulnerable smallholder farmers	400 000	15/01/2019	15/07/2019	Malawi
OSRO/MOZ/902/BEL	Emergency livelihood support to the most vulnerable populations affected by Tropical Cyclone Idai	225 309	29/03/2019	30/09/2019	Mozambique
OSRO/NIR/704/BEL	Restoring agricultural livelihood of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host families in NE Nigeria	500 000	20/03/2017	30/09/2018	Nigeria
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	01/08/2017	30/06/2018	Philippines
OSRO/PHI/806/BEL	Early Action for rice farmers in selected vulnerable areas of Mindanao against <i>El Niño</i>	400 000	01/12/2018	30/06/2019	Philippines
OSRO/RAF/605/BEL	Réduire la vulnérabilité des moyens d'existence agricoles à travers l'approche "Caisses de Résilience" au Sahel	5 000 000	15/10/2016	14/02/2019	Regional Africa

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