



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# The Africa Solidarity Trust Fund



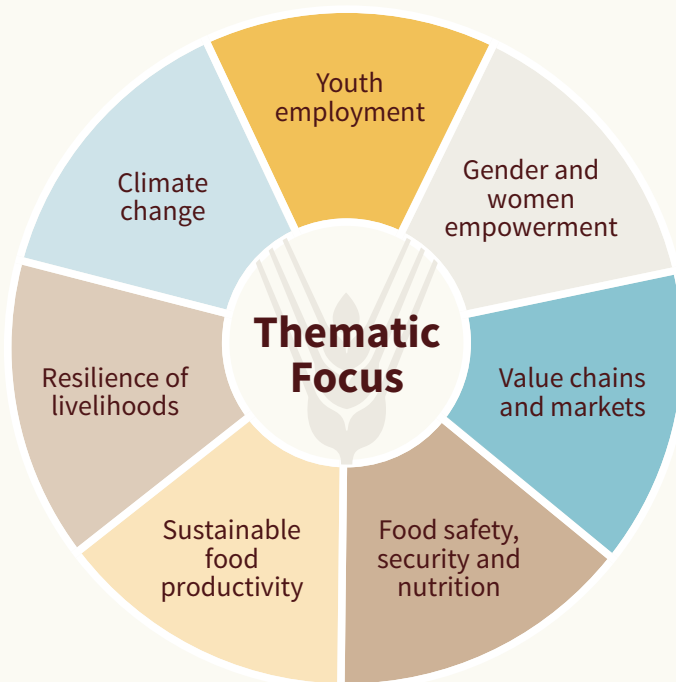
The Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063 define the context in which FAO collaborates with its partners to advance Africa's development priorities over the next decades.

Launched in 2013, the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) provides catalytic and flexible funding to Africa-to-Africa initiatives on food and agriculture, at regional and country level. As an FAO initiative, the ASTF already proves its success rating as an innovative African-led instrument for sustainable development.

By unlocking the potential of intra-African cooperation to bring about rural transformation, the ASTF is a unique funding mechanism that pools resources from Africa to address critical gaps in the development agenda of African countries. Harnessing homegrown knowledge, technology and good practices for food and nutrition security is at the core of this initiative.

## Africa Solidarity Trust Fund Portfolio

With an initial USD 40 million from Equatorial Guinea, Angola and symbolic contributions from civil society organizations, the ASTF enables FAO to assist African countries in addressing agricultural issues linked to peace, food security and nutrition, employment, environment and climate change, while creating a positive impact locally.



By 2020, the ASTF had supported 18 projects implemented in 41 African countries, in diverse areas of work. These have helped in achieving effectiveness, scaling up, creating synergies, and removing barriers. ASTF evaluation showed that it has benefitted millions of rural people in Africa, and many good lessons have been learned.

ASTF has supported  
**18** projects implemented  
in **41** African countries



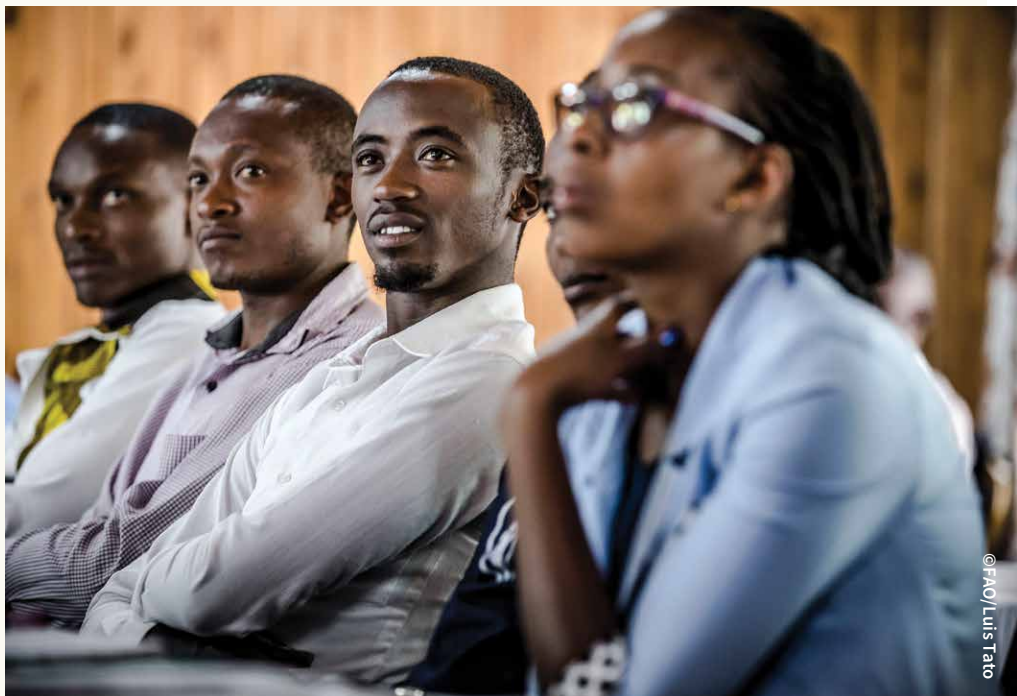
Source: Adapted from United Nations World map, 2020.

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## Key partners

The ASTF has helped to strengthen partnerships with key regional development actors in Africa, such as the African Union, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The ASTF has also helped to facilitate cross-sectoral work that simultaneously addresses the environmental, social and economic dimensions of today's challenges. The predictability of funding was an important success factor.





## Highlights

- Strengthened capacity of Southern African countries in controlling threats to food safety, plant and animal pests, as well as improving agricultural productivity and trade.
- Enhanced the capacity of approximately 4 500 experts from eight SADC countries to tackle transboundary pests and diseases through training and coordination support, which enabled the region's successful response to the Fall Armyworm invasion.
- Provided decent rural employment opportunities to young people in West Africa through sustainable aquaculture and cassava value chains.
- Supported rapid intervention projects in West Africa during the Ebola outbreak.
- Strengthened food security in urban areas in Central African countries.
- Improved nutrition and created employment opportunities for young people in East Africa.
- Facilitated spin-offs and important catalytic effects thanks to the well-designed and implemented ASTF projects, leading to the replication and upscaling of their interventions by other donors or governments.



### South Sudan

Nearly **200 000 families** in conflict-affected areas enhanced their nutritional intake.

About **560 000 animals protected** from risk of disease outbreak thanks to a country-wide vaccination initiative; protecting assets and building resilience for **19 000 households**.

### Malawi and Mali

**2 600 farm families and over 1 200 women and youth** effectively engaged in food production and marketing activities, and started personal businesses, creating 400 new jobs.

Additional **8 500 households supported** in Malawi to recover from flood disaster in 2015.

### Ethiopia

About **12 000 rural smallholders**, including women and youth, increased their income due to better access to inputs and the promotion of livelihood diversification strategies.

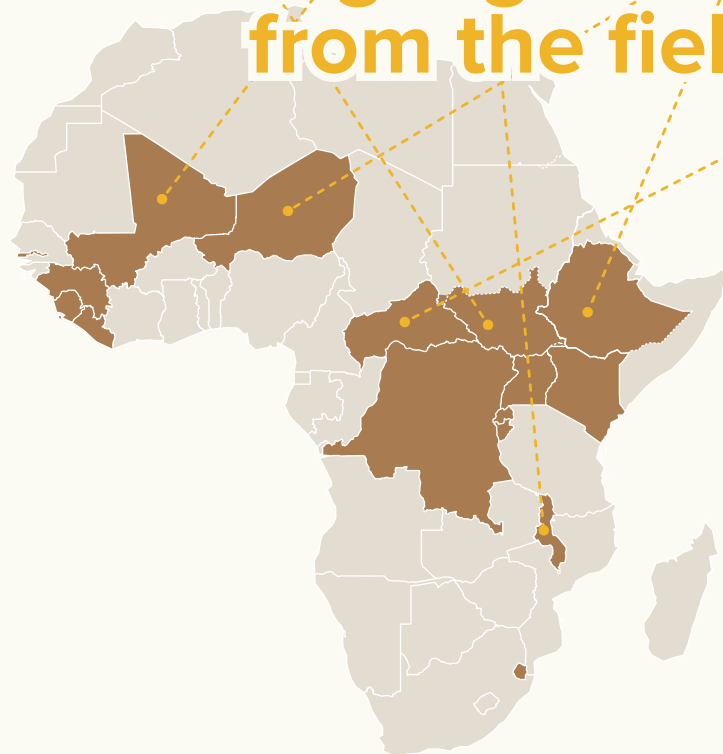
### Niger

Nearly **160 000 vulnerable households improved their agricultural productivity and food security** due to quality input distribution and investments in livestock and small-scale irrigation infrastructure.

### Central African Republic

**16 000 households** had increased access to agricultural inputs raising rice and groundnut production.

## Highlights from the field



### Other

More than 4 000 farm families in Ebola virus disease affected communities in **Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone** doubled their rice and vegetable productivity.

Household earnings in **Sierra Leone** increased from zero to USD 50–100 per week.

Over 1 500 female and male youth in **Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda** improved their income and access to food through decent job creation and stronger productive capacities in poultry, egg production and aquaculture value chains.

Over 1 000 women in **Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia and Eswatini**, including Dimitra Club members, were empowered through training in commercialization and value chain development, farming techniques, pest management, and access to credit and financial services.

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## Renewed Africa Solidarity Trust Fund

Despite the positive impact the ASTF has had on the lives of millions of people in rural areas, the lack of recapitalization can jeopardize the continuity of the Fund and its objectives.

The main thrust of the ASTF is the renewed commitment and recapitalization of the fund in order to allow the continuation of this commendable initiative.

Three key components:



Support actions for accelerating the SDGs



Intra-Africa knowledge sharing and exchange



Innovative financial modalities

## Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

In order for African countries to achieve the SDGs by 2030, most countries need support to pursue a transformative path, develop long-term strategies and roadmaps that are quantifiable and time-bound. SDGs capacity development, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and facilitation, monitoring and data support are areas in which most countries need support.

- SDG indicator monitoring and data support;
- cross-sector and multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and investment planning;
- integrated policies, partnerships to leverage investments, and mobilize resources and capacity development.

## Intra-Africa knowledge sharing and exchange

For many years, African countries have been generating research and developing innovative solutions to tackle their development challenges.

- Intra Africa knowledge sharing and exchange. Innovative knowledge generation and sharing have crucial roles to play in ensuring a dynamic flow of development solutions in the continent;
- Knowledge generation and exchange between Africa's Centres of Excellence (CoEs). The new ASTF provides an opportunity to better tap into CoEs and their expertise, through identifying and strengthening Africa CoEs and using the South-South Cooperation (SSC) instrument to connect existing CoEs and promote knowledge sharing and exchange of development solutions.

# Innovative financial modalities

## Funding windows for African countries

- **Supporting Africa-to-Africa Solutions.** The first value proposition to an African country contributing is that ASTF is “member-owned.” Like a club, this ownership value reinforces the “solidarity” concept of the ASTF that should encourage motivated African countries to rally and contribute because this is “Our Trust Fund”. This positions the ASTF to be an effective ‘enabler fund’ that supports African countries in achieving their priority commitments by removing implementation barriers, connecting opportunities and leveraging capacities.
- **Supporting in-Country Solutions.** The principle of Africa’s solidarity should be understood as a two-way process of “Give and Take”, whereby a contributing country would also benefit proportionately from the initiatives supported by the ASTF.

## Funding windows for partners of Africa

- **Africa’s Development Partners.** Given the multifaceted challenges facing Africa, the ASTF is open to contributions from stakeholders such as the bilateral and multilateral donors—referred to as “Friends of Africa”, in addition to those contributions made by African countries.
- **Impact Financing Investment.** Impact Financing is an investment stream that supports investment by private companies with the aim to have a positive development impact at the base of the socio-economic pyramid—investment to have socioeconomic impact on rural livelihoods.
- **Blended Finance.** Africa’s emerging and frontier markets are particularly attractive to private sectors, in food systems and agriculture, climate smart agriculture, renewable energy, clean technologies, etc.

## Second phase of the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund

The second phase of the ASTF was launched through a Round Table of Contributors held at the International Conference Center of Sipopo in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 11 June 2019.

The ASTF Round Table was organized drew high-level delegates from 22 African and 14 non-African countries,

including the participation of four African Heads of State and Government, several Ministers, Ambassadors, high-level officials and other delegates of countries and organizations from within and outside of Africa.

In 2020, the fund donated USD 1 million in response to the Desert Locust upsurge in East Africa.



The total amounts pledged by countries amounted to **USD 25 MILLION** detailed as follows:

**Angola**  
(USD 10 million),

**Equatorial Guinea**  
(USD 10 million),

**France**  
(EUR 2 million),

**China**  
(USD 2.6 million),

**Eswatini**  
(USD 100 000)

**Zimbabwe**  
(USD 100 000)

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