



## SITUATION UPDATE

# The Sahel crisis



12 March 2013

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite good agricultural production in 2012 and good conditions for pastoralists, the situation in the Sahel remains critical, mostly due to the impact of the 2012 crisis (food insecurity, floods and Mali conflict) as well as previous recent crises. Approximately **10.3 million people remain food insecure in 2013** and over **1.4 million children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition**.
- **Large population movements** are reported as a consequence of the conflict in Mali. It is estimated that there are currently **260 665 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali** and **170 313 refugees** in neighbouring countries, mainly Burkina Faso, Mauritania and the Niger.
- **The risk of food insecurity is growing in northern Mali, where** it is estimated that **585 000 people are food insecure and 1.2 million are at risk of food insecurity**.
- Based on current estimates, **for 2013 FAO is requesting a total of USD 135.3 million** to support almost 6 million people with livelihood interventions in the Sahel, including those related to the Malian conflict. To start the operations for the main agricultural campaign (May – October 2013), **USD 99 million** are immediately required, from which USD 6 million will be allocated to interventions in northern Mali.
- Aggravated by existing chronic vulnerabilities, the negative effects of the recent crises in 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2012 remain. Vulnerable people have eroded their capacity to withstand external shocks and many continue to be heavily indebted and have been unable to restore their productive means. **Time is of the essence for building resilience** to strengthen the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people.

### CURRENT SITUATION IN THE SAHEL REGION

Despite good agricultural production in 2012 and good conditions for pastoralists, the **prospects of the regional situation for 2013** is of concern with the impact of recent crises in 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2012 still holding back the possibilities of the population to rebuild their livelihoods. The food and nutrition insecurity crisis in the Sahel is increasingly complex, multidimensional and driven by widespread poverty, population explosion, chronic vulnerability and weakened resilience.<sup>1</sup>

Recurring crises have eroded the coping capacities and weakened the livelihoods of the already vulnerable population, further impoverishing them. The majority of the most vulnerable people had not recovered from one crisis when the next hit, and were unprepared to withstand new shocks such as erratic rains, low agricultural production, persistently high levels of food prices, national and regional insecurity and the threat of a Desert Locust infestation. Although in 2012 extreme food insecurity was averted and the worst crisis was mitigated, an estimated 10.3 million people, including those that could not benefit from adequate or sufficient livelihood support, will remain food and nutrition insecure and highly vulnerable to external shocks in 2013.

**The political, security and human rights situation in the region is rapidly deteriorating** as a consequence of the conflict in Mali. It is estimated that there are currently **260 665 IDPs in Mali** (15 715 were reported between 12 January and 10 February) and **170 313 refugees** (21 645 were reported between 11 January and 11 February) in neighbouring countries, primarily Burkina Faso, Mauritania and the Niger (OCHA 27 February 2013). **The situation in northern Mali remains a matter of deep concern**. Rapid assessments, undertaken in areas that are once again under Malian control are showing deteriorating food security conditions. Access is limited due to the lasting insecurity situation and only a limited humanitarian space has been established. In addition, the supply routes to the north are disrupted, with the exception of the newly opened Douentza-Gao road and the Niger river. Food stocks are diminishing, leading to increased prices and limited availability of, and access to, food and agricultural inputs. The closure of the Algerian borders and increased control at the borders of Burkina Faso are hindering cross border trade and livestock movements, which are imperative to people's livelihoods and local economic systems.

The living conditions of refugees and their host families remain critical. Mass migrations are causing further stress on communities already affected by recent food and nutrition crises and have created competition over access to basic services. Many refugees are

<sup>1</sup> "Resilience" is, for FAO, the ability to prevent disasters and crises or to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover from those that impact nutrition, agriculture, food security and food safety (and related public health risks) in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner. This includes protecting, restoring and improving structures and functions of food and agricultural systems under threat.

bringing their livestock with them, adding pressure to scarce natural resources (grazing land and water), endangering animals in the region with the possible spread of animal diseases, and increasing conflict between pastoralist refugees and host communities.

Military operations are expected to continue in the next months, resulting in limited access to concerned areas and possible simultaneous returnee and/or displacement movements. FAO interventions in the north are currently ongoing through international and local NGOs, and will be increased subject to a humanitarian space being opened in the south. FAO is implementing important livelihood support activities in favour of host communities and vulnerable households affected by the food and nutrition security crisis that are at risk of being neglected when focus has mainly been on people affected by the conflict.

**The nutritional status** of children under five remains alarming and it is estimated that over 1.4 million children will be at risk of severe acute malnutrition in 2013. In the Niger, the results of the national SMART (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions) nutrition survey, conducted in July-August 2012, indicate that the nutritional status of children under five years is of great concern. Although the chronic malnutrition rate decreased by 9 percent (from 51 percent to 42 percent) compared to June 2011, the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate increased from 12.3 percent, in June 2011, to 14.8 percent in 2012. This rate is very close to the emergency threshold of 15 percent determined by the World Health Organization (WHO). Four regions are above this emergency threshold: Zinder (15.9 percent), Maradi (16.2 percent), Tillabéri (16.6 percent) and Diffa (16.7 percent). The severe acute malnutrition rate increased from 1.9 percent in June 2011 to 3 percent in 2012 (this rate was at 3.2 percent in 2010, which was considered to be a very difficult year for food and nutrition security). In the Sahel regions of Chad, Mauritania and northern Nigeria, a nutrition survey also implemented during the lean season, exhibits concerning rates of high acute malnutrition. Despite good agropastoral production, the nutrition situation will remain a matter of deep concern in 2013 as this does not significantly benefit poor and very poor rural households.

**Rainfall and crop prospects** are positive as rains over the Sahel region were good in most of the region during the last rainy period (July – October 2012), leading to water rates and volumes exceeding reference years (1985, 2011 and average 2011/2012). Rains have filled up rivers and water points, leading to improved access to drinking water and regeneration of pastures. However, according to data collected (15 September 2012), more than 1.5 million people were affected by heavy rains across West and Central Africa in July and August 2012. In Nigeria, flooding resulted in 387 153 additional IDPs as of November 2012 (National Emergency Management Agency). The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) meeting (Ouagadougou 4-6 December 2012) stated that overall crop production is good throughout the Sahel and West Africa, with an increase of 13 percent compared to last year's production and 18 percent above the five-year average. The estimated cereal production level in the Sahel region and in West Africa (excluding Burkina Faso, data will become available later) for the 2012/13 growing season amounts to 57 318 000 tonnes, including 13 688 000 tonnes of rice, 17 622 000 tonnes of maize, 11 096 000 tonnes of millet, 14 341 000 tonnes of sorghum and 571 000 tonnes of other cereals. However, poor and very poor rural households that have limited access to agriculture and that did not benefit from livelihood support during the past season, will continue to depend on markets to access food. These households may not see a significant improvement of their food access and nutritional status in 2013. According to *Afrique Verte*, the off season campaign has started and sowing has begun with the gradual withdrawal of water in places ideal for market gardening activities, including the planting and maintenance of plants.

**The pastoral situation** has improved with adequate land pasture and good water conditions in all of the countries, leaving herds in good physical condition. Insecurity in Mali has led to the migration of pastoralists and their animals, thus adding pressure on the scarce natural resources and creating competition with local communities. The animal health situation is satisfactory, except for a few cases of bovine contagious pleuropneumonia and sheep and goat plague. Around 14 November 2012, the Gambia declared an outbreak of the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia threatening livestock in the country and neighbouring countries. An estimated 500 animal deaths were reported by the Ministry of Agriculture. In Senegal, the outbreak was declared on 19 November, following the death of six animals in the region of Goudiry (Ministry of Livestock). Contingency plans for Mali and Senegal (see below) will integrate a response strategy to control the disease from spreading.

**Food prices remain volatile and high compared with the five-year average.** In early February, after the post-harvest food price decreases, coarse grain prices increased in almost all of the markets in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger compared with January. In view of the need to reconstitute household food stocks and cereal offices, prices could fail to drop significantly in 2013 despite good crop production. Although cattle prices remain high, but stable compared to January, the terms of trade livestock/cereal have continued improving in February due to the improved condition of livestock and decreased cereal prices. The July-September rise in international maize, wheat and soya prices (due to atypical drought conditions in the United States) had a limited impact in the Sahel, and in December wheat values changed very little under subdued trade activity. Still, this must continue to be monitored closely, particularly in Mauritania in view of its dependence on wheat imports.

**The Desert Locust situation** in the Sahel has improved dramatically due to successful control operations. The situation in the region is now calm since ecological conditions are dry in all locust breeding areas. Nevertheless, small residual infestations are probably present in parts of the Air Mountains in the north of the Niger and the Adrar des Iforas in northern Mali. Several adult groups and small swarms continued to form in the southern part of Western Sahara during February and moved to adjacent areas of northwestern Mauritania. Control operations were undertaken in Mauritania and strict vigilance should continue.

### i. FAO Strategic Resilience Framework

FAO is strongly committed to support the Sahel crisis under a programmatic resilience framework, anchored in the FAO pillars of Disaster Risk Management (DRM), serving as an overarching umbrella not only for the humanitarian response, but also for medium to long-term work of the Organization, including investment. It is entitled “Urgent action to support the resilience of vulnerable populations Strategic Response Framework Food and Nutrition Crisis in the Sahel” (last update July 2012). Recognizing the need to break the vicious cycle of recurrent crises and emergencies in the region, the Strategic Framework set out the priorities not only for humanitarian support, but also for medium to longer term interventions, including investment. The overall objective is *to improve the food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in the Sahel*, in order to strengthen their livelihoods and enable them to withstand and mitigate the impact of future crises.

In line with this vision, the Strategic Framework’s five pillars and expected results are as follows: (1) **protect and strengthen the livelihoods** of vulnerable populations; (2) **govern risks and manage crises**: strengthened national and regional institutional capacities for coordination and management of crises and reduction of food and nutrition insecurity risks; (3) **watch to safeguard**: needs assessment, monitoring and early warning systems (EWS) at local, national and regional levels are strengthened in a concerted and integrated way; (4) **prepare to respond**: contingency plans and crisis preparedness are strengthened at regional, national and local levels; (5) **inform and communicate for knowledge**: knowledge management and dissemination of good practices in risk reduction and strengthening resilience are promoted at all levels. The achievement of the five strategic results is supported by the following three cross-cutting issues: (i) the central role of *capacity development*; (2) *strategic partnerships* and alliances; (3) the crucial importance of *gender equality*.

At the regional level, humanitarian actors launched the 2013 Humanitarian Sahel Strategy in December 2012 in Dakar. The Strategy aims to ensure a coordinated and harmonized approach for humanitarian response both at the national and regional level. It includes a shared regional analysis of the context and situation, common regional strategic goals and objectives and agreed performance indicators for delivery and systematic monitoring that provides evidence-based needs and gaps analysis.

### ii. Funding requirements 2013

For 2013, FAO is requesting a total of **USD 135.3 million to improve the food and nutrition security of almost 6 million vulnerable people** in the Sahel. This estimate is based on the current situation, but could be revised depending on the evolving regional situation due to the ongoing conflict in Mali. The request includes FAO components of:

- **CAP 2013**: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger;
- the **Sahel Regional Strategy 2013**: Senegal, the Gambia, north Cameroon and north Nigeria (non-CAP countries) as well as regional support;
- estimated **needs in Mali and neighbouring countries** due to the **Malian conflict**, in line with the contingency plan “Mali + ” developed by IASC.

Countries	Requirements 2013*	Requirements related to Mali	Requirements total per country	Total Beneficiaries
Burkina Faso	14.4	8.3	22.7	1 080 600
North Cameroon	2.4	n/a	2.4	50 800
Chad	16.4	n/a	16.4	715 800
The Gambia	6.2	n/a	6.2	158 000
Mali	11.8	10.2	22	840 000
Mauritania	4.7	1	5.7	786 000
North Nigeria	3	n/a	3	40 000
The Niger	45.8	2.5	48.3	1 774 200
Senegal	4	2	6	483 500
Regional	2.0	0.6	2.6	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>135.3</b>	<b>5 928 900</b>

\* estimates presented in CAP 2013 and Sahel Regional Strategy 2013

\*\* estimates as per 01/01/2013, regularly updated depending on evolution and impact of the conflict

For more details on the specific country and regional interventions and planned activities, please refer to the document entitled “The FAO Component of the Sahel 2013 Humanitarian Appeals” at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/emergencies/docs/SahelCAP13.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/SahelCAP13.pdf) as well as the afore-mentioned [FAO regional strategic framework](#) “The Food and Nutrition Crisis in the Sahel: Urgent Action to Support the Resilience of Vulnerable Populations - Regional Strategic Response Framework”.

## **FAO CAPACITY AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS**

### **FAO presence in the Sahel region**

FAO is represented in all Sahel countries and has the required capacity to implement country and regional interventions. In Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mali, the Niger and Senegal, FAO Country Offices also include Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Units dealing specifically with activities pertaining to the crisis. In addition, the FAO Subregional Emergency and Rehabilitation Office based in Senegal and the FAO Subregional Office in West Africa based in Ghana, with the support of FAO headquarters, are planning and regionally coordinating the FAO global response to the crisis in the short, medium and longer term, including investment as well as the sharing of best practices throughout the subregion. These offices also contribute, together with key partners, to food and nutrition security information analysis.

### **Partnerships and coordination mechanisms**

In order to carry out its mandate, FAO is closely collaborating and partnering with the host governments and local authorities at all levels, national and research institutions, other United Nations agencies, the donor community and civil society, local associations and international non-governmental organizations.

FAO also participates in national thematic working groups/clusters covering areas such as food and nutrition security, humanitarian and emergency coordination and early warning. The organization often has a prominent, if not lead, coordinating role due to its expertise. In addition, FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) co-lead the Food Security Clusters that are active in Chad, the Niger and Mali. An additional Food Security Cluster is foreseen in Mauritania. In Senegal, FAO and WFP co-lead the Food Security Coordination Group.

In collaboration with the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), WFP and host governments, FAO regularly offers its support and technical expertise to monitoring exercises such as crop assessments, food security and market surveys, vulnerability assessment and targeting evaluations.

Within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)/Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process, FAO is also supporting the formulation of National Agricultural and Food Security Investment programmes. National Programmes for Food Security (NPFS) have been prepared by all of the Sahel countries, with Mauritania as the most recent to be completed. Two NPFS (Chad and Mali) are under implementation. The NPFS for the Sahel countries require an investment of about USD 1.89 billion.

FAO has supported the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)<sup>3</sup> in the development of the CAADP Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (PRIA). A thematic programme from PRIA focuses on the reduction of vulnerability to food crises and the promotion of stable and sustainable access to food, estimated at USD 176 million. This programme aims to establish a system of regional emergency humanitarian food reserves. It includes the review and adoption of the Charter for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises, covering West African countries (beyond the Sahel) and actors (beyond states, to include regional organizations and non-state actors). The charter stresses the importance at regional level, to avoid and tackle food crises. FAO also supports ECOWAS, through the Dakar based IASC Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group, to develop its strategy, mechanism and Plan of Action to intervene in humanitarian crises.

## **INTERVENTIONS IN 2012**

In 2012, FAO received USD 49.8 million for emergency and rehabilitation programmes in the Sahel, representing 44 percent of the USD 112 million appeal. An additional USD 8.2 million<sup>4</sup> was received for Desert Locust interventions, corresponding to 82 percent of the USD 10 million appeal. The diagrams below illustrate the funding requirements and contributions for 2012.

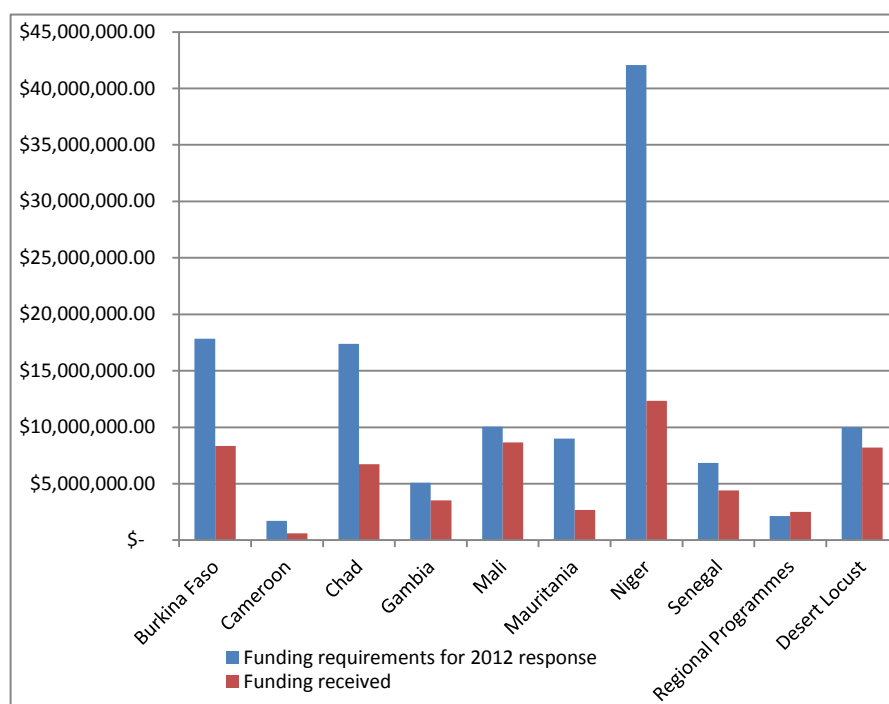
Several donors contributed to FAO's livelihood interventions in the Sahel during 2012, including Belgium, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the European Union's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Finland, France, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme also contributed to address immediate needs.

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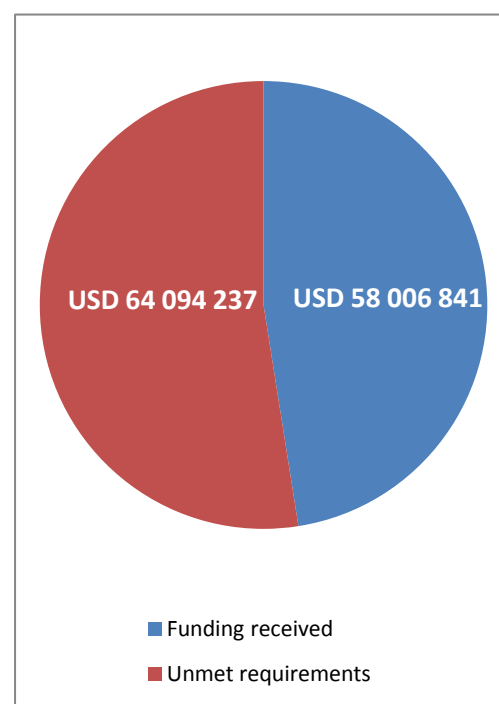
<sup>3</sup> The following Sahel countries are members of ECOWAS: Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Mali, the Niger and Senegal. Cameroon, Chad and Mauritania are not members.

<sup>4</sup> This amount includes direct funding to FAO in support of DL interventions in the Sahel as well as bilateral funding granted to recipient countries.

**Funding requirements and received funds per country (USD)**



**Total needs 2012 (USD 122 101 078)**



With the contributions received (in total **USD 58 million**), FAO was able to support the livelihoods of more than **5.2 million people** affected by the 2012 crisis (including more than 223 000 Malian IDPs, refugees and host families) through the implementation of the following activities:

1. **Support to food crop and off-season production**, including the following activities:
  - a. distribution of agricultural inputs (food crop seeds, fertilizers, small agricultural tools, agricultural material to build fences, etc.), targeting both the main rainy agricultural season (production of cereals such as rice, maize, sorghum, millet, cowpeas, groundnuts) and the off-season (vegetable production); introduction of drought resistant vegetable varieties;
  - b. strengthening the food chain and marketing sector (storage, processing and transportation of agricultural goods); and
  - c. integrated food nutrition activities (nutritional education, food preparation and utilization and consumption diversification).
2. **Support to domestic animal protection and production**, including:
  - a. protection of livestock, provision of veterinary multi-vitamin and mineral food complements and vaccination campaigns;
  - b. technical support for livestock management and animal health; and
  - c. restocking of herds through the distribution of vaccinated small ruminants and poultry.
3. **Soil and water conservation and rehabilitation**, focused on the following activities:
  - a. rehabilitation of irrigation systems and water points;
  - b. rehabilitation or construction of pastoral wells; and
  - c. restoration of degraded lands.
4. **Early warning and preparedness support**, focused on:
  - a. strengthening of national Early Warning Systems;
  - b. support to food insecurity and vulnerability analysis, including technical support to the *Cadre Harmonisé*;
  - c. support to national crop assessments and market analysis; and
  - d. contribution to national and regional contingency plans for the Malian refugees crisis.
5. **Desert Locust control and monitoring**, focused on the following activities:
  - b. strengthening the operational capacity and security measures of the national survey and control teams;
  - c. triangulation of pesticides;
  - d. provision of technical assistance; and
  - a. preparation for scaling-up of interventions.

At country level, the FAO livelihood interventions in 2012 covered the following:

## BURKINA FASO

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- Estimated number of people affected: 2 million people (15 percent of the population).
- Number of people targeted by FAO: 933 800.
- Requested funding: USD 17 835 000; received: USD 8 341 273; funding gap: USD 9 493 727.
- With the funding received, FAO assisted more than 786 000 persons, including 14 413 Malian refugees and their host families, through the following main lines of intervention:
  - rehabilitating the cereal production capacity of vulnerable households for the 2012 agricultural campaign;
  - restocking of herds for vulnerable households;
  - supporting livestock breeding and veterinary inputs to vulnerable herder households;
  - rehabilitation of water points and degraded lands;
  - supporting fodder production and rehabilitating good quality fodder reserves for vulnerable households; and
  - supporting vegetable production to help vulnerable households affected by the food and nutrition crisis recover.

## Northern CAMEROON

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- Estimated number of people affected: 350 000 people (23 percent of the population).
- Number of people targeted by FAO: 191 037 people in the northern region.
- Requested funding: USD 1 711 000; received: USD 611 011; funding gap: USD 1 099 989.
- With the funding received, FAO assisted almost 140 000 persons, through the following main lines of intervention:
  - distribution of improved seeds (maize, sorghum and millet) and other agricultural inputs; and
  - supplying animal feed and vaccines.

## CHAD

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- Estimated number of people affected: 3.6 million people (32 percent of the population).
- Number of people targeted by FAO: 993 798 people.
- Requested funding: USD 17 377 080; received: USD 6 743 186; funding gap: USD 10 633 894.
- With the funding received, FAO assisted almost 634 000 persons, through the following main lines of intervention:
  - distributing seeds and farming inputs for the rainy season;
  - providing supplementary feed for livestock;
  - providing emergency agriculture-horticulture assistance to populations affected by the drought;
  - supporting small-scale irrigation infrastructure for vulnerable agropastoralists;
  - supporting IDPs, returnees, and host families with food processing, small infrastructure and restocking in small ruminants in Ouaddai and Sila;
  - supporting natural resources management, in partnership with WFP (Food for work); and
  - supporting the national Information System and the Coordination Unit for emergency agricultural activities and assessments.

## THE GAMBIA

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- Estimated number of people affected: 241 000 in the Gambia (18 percent of the population).
- Number of people targeted by FAO: 241 000 people.
- Requested funding: USD 5 076 945; received: USD 3 526 171; funding gap: USD 1 550 774.
- With the funding received, FAO assisted more than 172 000 persons, through the following main lines of intervention:
  - providing selected seeds and fertilizers for the rainy seasons and for vegetable production in the dry seasons;
  - providing animal feed supplement, vaccines and veterinary supplies to herders; and
  - strengthening technical capacities in agricultural production and pest management.

## MALI

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- Estimated number of people affected: 4.6 million people (32 percent of the population).
- Number of people targeted by FAO: 380 825 people.
- Requested funding: USD 10 050 000; received: USD 8 665 369; funding gap: USD 1 384 631.

- With the funding received, FAO assisted more than 293 000 persons, including 176 252 IDPs and their host families, through the following main lines of intervention:
  - strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, including IDPs, by supporting the pastoral and agricultural production capacities of affected households;
  - strengthening the capacities of vegetable farmers and small ruminant herders to increase their resilience to climatic shocks; and
  - improving household access to a highly nutritional and diversified diet, and good nutritional practices.

## MAURITANIA

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- Estimated number of people affected: 987 000 people (30 percent of the population).
- Number of people targeted by FAO: 497 500 people.
- Requested funding: USD 9 000 000; received: USD 2 671 554; funding gap: USD 6 328 446.
- With the funding received, FAO assisted more than 525 000 persons, including 32 340 Malian refugees and their host families, through the following main lines of intervention:
  - distributing seeds and farming inputs for the main planting season;
  - supporting vegetable production and nutrition education to improve the nutrition of vulnerable people;
  - providing animal feed, vaccines and other veterinary inputs;
  - supporting fodder production, including through the introduction of varieties adapted to the ecosystem;
  - supporting nutrition through distribution of foods coming from destocking operations; and
  - strengthening DRM and coordination capacities.

## THE NIGER

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- Estimated number of people affected: 6.4 million people (42 percent of the population).
- Number of people targeted by FAO: 4 180 000 people.
- Requested funding: USD 42 073 553; received: USD 12 338 812; funding gap: USD 29 734 741.
- With the funding received, FAO assisted more than 2.1 million persons, through the following main lines of intervention:
  - supporting the cereal production for the 2012 agricultural campaign, through distribution of drought-resistant rain fed crop varieties and fertilizer;
  - distribution of animal feed;
  - restocking of herds and technical support to vulnerable households, through pastoral field schools;
  - producing multi-nutritious blocks and providing veterinary inputs to vulnerable herder households; and
  - supporting vegetable production and nutrition for vulnerable households affected.

## SENEGAL

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- Number of people affected: 739 000 people (6 percent of the population).
- Number of people targeted by FAO: 420 000.
- Requested funding: USD 6 850 000; received: USD 6 485 628; funding gap: USD 364 372.
- With the funding received, FAO assisted more than 559 000 persons, through the following main lines of intervention:
  - strengthening the agricultural production capacity of vulnerable households through the distribution of food crops, vegetable seeds and animal feed; and
  - strengthening vulnerable households' resilience through training on production techniques, DRM awareness and dissemination of agro-meteorological information.

## REGIONAL PROGRAMME

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- Requested funding: USD 2 127 500; received: USD 2 511 463.
- With the funding received, FAO supported the following areas:
  - strengthening strategies and activities of food security and nutrition stakeholders in West Africa and the Sahel;
  - analysing and sharing food security and nutrition information and needs with stakeholders including donors; and
  - supporting FAO's DRM interventions in West African and the Sahelian countries.



## LOCUSTS

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The locust situation is currently calm in the Sahel of West Africa. However, FAO remains vigilant and continues to support the front-line countries to be prepared to respond effectively if swarms return to the Sahel region from northern Africa in June 2013.

**Survey and control operations:** Operations in northern Mauritania continued in February and March. Financial support was provided to Mauritania for survey and control teams.

**Procurement:** HF radios were delivered to the national Desert Locust control units in Mali and Chad. Personnel, protective equipment, satellite phones, environmental and health monitoring material were delivered to the Desert Locust control unit in Mali. Financial support was provided to Mauritania for the purchasing of spare parts for survey and control vehicles.

**11<sup>th</sup> Liaison Officer Meeting of the EMPRES Programme in the Western Region:** From 21 to 25 January, the 11<sup>th</sup> Liaison Officer Meeting of the EMPRES Programme in the Western Region was held in Dakar, Senegal. During the meeting, the Liaison Officers of the ten CLCPRO member countries updated and endorsed the Regional Plan of Action according to the Desert Locust situation and forecasts, and their needs in terms of equipment, training and support to survey and control operations.

**Information system (eLocust3):** A project to upgrade the current information system (eLocust2) started in October, and will take advantage of the latest technology. The eLocust3 will improve the collection and recording of field data and its transmission through a faster, more reliable and cost-effective manner. This will lead to more precise and timely analysis and early warning. Field deployment of eLocust3 is expected to take place in Spring 2013.

## LINKS

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- FAO website on the Sahel crisis: <http://www.fao.org/crisis/sahel/the-sahel-crisis/en/>
- FAO and emergencies: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/>
- FAO Locust Watch website / Sahel threat: <http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/2002/index.html>
- DRM Regional strategy for West Africa and Sahel, 2011-2013 (FAO 2011):  
<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/home/news/emergency-news/emergency-detail/en/item/120920/icode/?uidf=1345>
- FAO DRR corporate framework: "Resilient livelihoods: Disaster Risk reduction for food and nutrition" security:  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2540e/i2540e00.pdf>
- Interagency (IASC) Strategy for the Sahel "Preparation for a food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel and neighbouring countries":  
<http://ochaonline.un.org/UrgencesEmergencies/Sahel2012/tabid/7773/language/fr-FR/Default.aspx>

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