West Africa regional programme to support humanitarian response including resilient livelihoods and food security monitoring

**Project code:** OSRO/RAF/801/USA

**Donor:** United States of America

**Contribution:** USD 500 000

**Implementation:** 01/01/2018 – 31/03/2019

**Target areas:** West Africa and the Sahel

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### Contact

| Gouantoueu Guei, Sub-regional Coordinator for West Africa. [FAO-SFW@fao.org](mailto:FAO-SFW@fao.org) |
| Dominique Burgeon, Director, Emergency and Resilience Division. [PSE-Director@fao.org](mailto:PSE-Director@fao.org) |

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### Objective:

To strengthen the resilience of conflict- and disaster-affected populations, and address chronic vulnerability to food insecurity in West Africa and the Sahel.

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### Key partners:

United Nations (UN) agencies, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)/Regional Training Centre for Agrometeorology and Operational Hydrology and their Applications (AGRHYMET), the Famine and Early Warning Systems Network, national partners (statistical services from the Ministries of Agriculture, national early warning systems and nutrition services), the Permanent Secretariat of the G5 Sahel, the Economic Community of West African States and research centres.

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### Beneficiaries reached:

The project supported the activities of various food security and nutrition stakeholders in West Africa and the Sahel, including regional bodies and institutions, resource partners, governments, NGOs and UN agencies. It also indirectly benefited vulnerable households.

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### Activities implemented:

- Contributed to regional humanitarian strategies, and monitored and reported on regional food security indicators.
- Promoted resilient livelihoods within the framework of the regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), the Regional Development Team (RDT), the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Working Group (EPR WG), the Regional Resilience Working Group and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS).
- Ensured that stakeholders are adequately informed on the humanitarian and livelihood situation, and advocated for a humanitarian response focusing on building resilient livelihoods.
- Contributed to food security monitoring and assessments in the region, including the *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) food security information systems led by CILSS.
- Carried out food security analyses and helped to build consensus on the food and nutrition situation among all stakeholders.
- Disseminated information and analyses for advocacy on the food security situation.
- Provided disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategic and technical support to FAO offices and their partners.
- Supported the CILSS and the UNISS-G5 Sahel regional programming initiatives focusing on the scaling up of effective DRR interventions.
- Encouraged knowledge management for risk reduction and to reduce vulnerabilities at household and community levels with the use of good practices.
Contributed to the implementation of the Regional Reserve for Food Security project jointly with the Agence Régionale pour l’Agriculture et l’Alimentation (ARAA) Communauté Économique des États de l’Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO).

Fostered the implementation of shock-responsive social protection mechanisms (cash transfers and cash+ linked with DRR activities).

**Results:**

- Continued provision of regular analyses of the subregional food security and nutrition situation.
- Contributed to building consensus among the regional and international stakeholders on the food security and nutrition situation.
- Extended the use of CH as a strategic tool that integrates food security and nutrition analysis.
- Strengthened the capacities of various stakeholders in resilience analysis and measurement.
- Increased use of innovative approaches for building resilience and enhancing DRR in vulnerable communities and among food security and nutrition stakeholders.
- Enhanced communication, resource mobilization and advocacy for FAO country offices, through the rapid deployment of experts from FAO’s Regional Resilience, Emergency and Rehabilitation Office for West Africa/Sahel (REOWA).
- Strengthened strategic partnerships with regional stakeholders.