



35th RPCA Annual Meeting, Paris, OECD Conference Centre, 9 December 2019

Partners' Interventions - Joint Statement by FAO, UNICEF and WFP

presented by Coumba SOW, Head of the FAO Subregional Team for Resilience in West Africa/Sahel

Excellency Ministers,

Dear Dr Adoum, Executive Secretary of CILSS

Dear Mr Brossard, Director of the Secretariat of the Club

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocol observed

I am reading this message on behalf of FAO, UNICEF and WFP,

The number of people facing critical lack of food, nutrition, and vital livelihood in West Africa and the Sahel has spiked in one year due to rising insecurity compounded with climatic shocks. It may further deteriorate if the international community does not act now. Our three United Nations agencies, FAO, WFP and UNICEF are warning.

Millions people in the region would be at risk during the lean season (June-August 2020) if no appropriate actions are taken urgently, even more people could join them in this difficult situation.

The biggest concern is in the Central Sahel countries where conflict and its impacts on communities have become the main cause of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger are experiencing a rise in the number of incidents such as attacks by armed groups and community conflicts that regularly lead to new forced movements of populations. In Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali 860.000 people are internally displaced¹.

This figure is three times higher than it was in 2018 in the same period, confirming FAO and WFP's alert a few months ago, and justifying their decision to scale up their activities in those three countries in the context of the Fighting Food Crisis and the Global Network against Food Crisis.

The situation is particularly alarming in Burkina Faso.

Immediate assistance to respond to urgent needs has to be coupled with substantial investments in rural livelihoods and social services, in order to reinforce social cohesion and provide the foundations for peace in the region.

FAO, UNICEF WFP are pledging for a scaled up response to address the immediate needs while strengthening the livelihoods of women, men and children. We are jointly planning for 2020 and beyond.

¹ Source OCHA Sahel Dashboard Nov 2019 – Countries: Burkina, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Tchad and Senegal Mauritania (the caseload is zero in the last two countries).

In Burkina Faso for instance we will be working within the registry that is being developed by the Government for better targeting.

- FAO mobilized in 2019, USD 51,5 million to assist 2,5 million pastoralists across countries. FAO is supporting provision of animal feeding, vaccines, particularly in cattle concentration zones during transhumance, access to water for agriculture, seeds and other inputs, restore soils and water points.
- FAO is implementing a project of the Global Network against Food crisis funded by DEVCO EUR 9 million which will help in 3 years to support conflict analysis, establish a system of security watch for better pacification, support the establishment of an animal feed balance sheet for better management of natural resources, reinforce early warning early action and develop a wide system of agropastoral field schools. This is aligned to the programme of Resilient pastoralism of the G5 Sahel for which FAO is lead partner.

FAO is also supporting all 17 countries in implementing their plans for Fall Army Worm with a budget close to USD 9,9 million. We look forward to the approval of the USD 50 million-project proposal, which was submitted to the AfDB.

- In 2019, WFP is reaching 13.7 million beneficiaries in West Africa through its emergency food assistance, resilience activities, nutrition activities and school feeding activities. Funding requirements for the 19 countries comes to USD 1.5 billion.
- In the Central Sahel, WFP is planning to reach 4.1 million people with funding requirements of 174 million US dollars (cash and in-kind) primarily through its crisis response of general food distributions. This will be complemented by prevention of malnutrition support to children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and nursing women among IDPs; and emergency school feeding (including take-home rations for IDPs and host-community girls), where security conditions allow.
- Through WFP's resilience scale-up plan for the G5 Sahel, WFP plans to assist 1.6 million beneficiaries with USD 171 million.
- WFP and UNICEF are very worried about the further increasing trends in malnutrition in the region, particularly wasting. The wasting levels are now consistently since 10 years above the international emergency threshold of 10 percent. We are requesting continued and increased investments in analysis of the malnutrition trends, esp as part of CH approach, and more funding in order to support more comprehensive and simplified approaches for treatment and prevention of wasting.

To finish we would like to stress the need for further engagement, longer-term investments and adequate policies and programmes with the necessary monitoring and evaluation of impacts led by Governments.

We remain engaged to work with all governments and regional institutions to address issues related to their response plans to plan, review, execute and monitor progress.

We thank and congratulate CILSS and the RPCA for addressing these important issues and of great concern. We congratulate experts for their relentless work to bring appropriate information to light for decision-making.

We also remain engaged to supporting the Cadre harmonisé process to continue the process of improvement CILSS and AGRHYMET have started and particularly where it seems to be difficult while the most needed.

In its Presidency of the Technical Committee of Cadre Harmonisé, FAO mobilized its regular budget resources and with OFDA, EU, and other partners to support the dissemination of the Manual 2.0 and helped training so far 60 experts analysts among which 25 coaches and 35 facilitators.

Our aim is to have at least 200 certified analysts in the 3 years of our mandate and many more as we receive support from other members of the Technical Committee.

Together with WFP and UNICEF we plan to mobilize more resources to engage further in the CHv2.0 rollout alongside insuring data availability and expertise on food security, nutrition and market analysis.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.