

Operationalising the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus to better respond to food and nutrition crises in the Sahel and West African countries

Guidance note

1. Background

1. In response to the recurrent multifactorial food and nutrition crises that are shaking the region, the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD), the European Union (EU) and the Global Network against Food Crises (GN) organised a [high-level meeting](#) on 6 April 2022. The event mobilised 2.5 billion EUR in financial commitments to support national crisis response plans and structuring programmes for food and nutrition security (FNS) and resilience in seven countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria). The region and its partners also committed to operationalising the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus in countries in conflict. These countries account for 80% of the populations threatened by hunger and malnutrition in the region.

2. On 25 May 2022, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Permanent Interstate Committee for drought control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the co-organisers of the 6 April meeting agreed on a framework for the implementation of the HDP commitment.

2. Guidelines

3. ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS have launched a **Policy Approach** aimed at improving or strengthening the mechanisms for dialogue, co-ordination and joint action by the actors of the HDP nexus in the face of food and nutrition crises. The thematic focus or entry point of this HDP approach is "Agriculture, Food and Nutrition". It is therefore a question of seeing how to deliver or achieve FNS by harmoniously and effectively integrating humanitarian, development and peace issues. Without being exhaustive, the "Peace" dimension includes aspects of de-radicalisation, prevention of violent extremism, inter-community and inter-religious dialogue in favour of social cohesion, justice, prevention and resolution of community conflicts (particularly for the management of natural resources), stabilisation and civil-military co-operation, etc. (how can we ensure that security action plays an active part in the "social contract" and does not undermine the other pillars of humanitarian and development work?). This political commitment to the HDP nexus should draw on the lessons of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) launched in the region in 2012 and also be based on a mapping of existing co-ordination mechanisms and initiatives in the region.

4. This approach concerns the 17 countries of the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS space, plus Cameroon. It is implemented in phases, the first of which concerns the countries on the security front line (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria).

5. It is based on the following key principles:

- State leadership; alignment with existing institutions, frameworks and mechanisms; and co-ordination;
- Subsidiarity between the local, national and regional levels, with the regional level providing support in terms of advice, facilitation and political mobilisation, monitoring, capitalisation and sharing;
- Inclusiveness and intersectorality; based on the involvement of all relevant stakeholders of the HDP nexus at all levels (local, national, regional, international);
- Learning by capitalising on the lessons learned from various initiatives, including AGIR's National Resilience Priorities (NRP).

3. Implementation

6. It is agreed that the implementation should be driven by the States: inclusive national diagnostics for the establishment of the situation (context, actors, mechanisms, trends, lessons learned, constraints, opportunities/assets for the implementation of a HDP nexus approach); political and technical dialogues for the formulation of HDP nexus roadmaps and the organisation for their implementation, etc.

7. General co-ordination and facilitation are provided by CILSS, the technical arm of ECOWAS and UEMOA: framing/guidance, facilitation, advice and strategic support for inclusive national diagnostics and technical and policy dialogues; monitoring/tracking progress with the States; capitalisation, sharing and promotion of best practices, etc. In order to achieve these results, CILSS benefits from the technical support of the SWAC/OECD Secretariat: methodological support and advice, advocacy/lobbying, communication, etc., as well as from the technical assistance and institutional capacity support of the Global Network against Food Crises.

8. The other co-organisers of the high-level meeting (EU and GN), as well as the members of the RPCA and all stakeholders (agro-pastoral organisations, civil society and private sector, associations of local elected, representatives of peace-building and security institutions/ frameworks, technical and financial partners, etc.), participate in and contribute to the process according to their fields of action and expertise. These contributions could include: mapping of existing mechanisms; analyses and technical support for inclusive national diagnostics; technical capacity building; technical and political support for the process in general, according to the requests of the States; research and implementation of best practices and financing instruments adapted to the HDP approach; mobilisation of local actors at the grassroots level; awareness-raising and advocacy at all levels for the active participation of the various stakeholders in the process, etc.

4. Next steps

9. Future priorities are as follows:

1. Official communication (including sharing of the Guidance Note) from CILSS with the security frontline countries and convening of a virtual meeting with the objective of better understanding expectations, having a common vision of expected results and indicators, examining the modalities for launching inclusive national diagnostics: **by 30 June 2022**
2. Conduct by CILSS of information, communication and policy dialogue activities with States, with the support of ECOWAS and UEMOA: **July-August 2022**
3. Development by CILSS, with the support of the SWAC/OECD Secretariat and the GN, of a guide for conducting inclusive national diagnostics with a view to defining road maps: **by 15 July 2022**
4. Conduct by countries, with the support-facilitation of CILSS and other stakeholders, of inclusive national diagnostics with a view to identifying roadmaps: **July - December 2022**
5. Sharing by CILSS and country focal points of the progress of country roadmap processes at the 38th RPCA annual meeting: **6-8 December 2022**
6. Sharing the first progress of the implementation of the roadmaps at the next RPCA restricted meeting: **5-7 April 2023**

Annex: List of participants

ECOWAS	UEMOA	CILSS
Mr Sékou SANGARÉ, Commissionner for Agriculture, Environment & Water Resources	Mr Amadou MBODJ, Director of Agriculture, representing Commissioner DAREN	Mr Abdoulaye MOHAMADOU, Executive Secretary Mr Mahalmoudou HAMADOUN, DG, CRA CCR-AOS Mr Issoufou BAOUA, Coordinator PRA/SAN
EU	Global Network Against Food Crises (GN)	SWAC/OECD Secretariat
Ms Francesca DI MAURO Mr Giuseppe ANGELINI Mr Benoît COLLIN Ms Nicoletta AVELLA Ms Marion LE GUILLOUX Ms Philippe THOMAS Mr Giampiero MUCI Ms Sara ELEONORI	Mr Luca RUSSO Mr Pierpaolo PIRAS	Mr Laurent BOSSARD Mr. Sibiri Jean ZOUNDI Ms Fatouma Zara SAIDOU YACOUBA