



**GLOBAL ALLIANCE
FOR RESILIENCE**

**AGIR – SAHEL AND
WEST AFRICA**

REGIONAL ROADMAP

ADOPTED ON 9 APRIL 2013



Adoption Ceremony of the AGIR Regional Roadmap on 9 April 2013, Paris.



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ORIGINAL VERSION: FRENCH



PREAMBLE

Within the framework of the 28th Annual Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), held on 6 December 2012 in Ouagadougou, food and nutritional security stakeholders (Sahelian and West African governments, inter-governmental organisations, bi-/multilateral technical and financial partners, UN agencies, agricultural producers' and pastoralists' organisations, civil society and the private sector, non-governmental organisations, etc.) sealed the Global Alliance for Resilience – AGIR - Sahel and West Africa, and adopted a Joint Declaration.

This roadmap provides a **Regional Guidance Framework** setting forth the overall objectives of the Alliance. It will serve as the basis for formulating national resilience priorities (through inclusive dialogue, building on existing and planned policies and programmes). These national priorities will also include operational frameworks for funding, implementation, monitoring and assessment.



1 PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL VULNERABILITY

A. GEOGRAPHIC AREA

1. The Global Alliance for Resilience - AGIR - Sahel and West Africa involves the 17 member countries of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS in the Sudano-Sahelian and Guinean region. Particular attention is paid to the Sahel zone, where millions of people face structural hunger and malnutrition. The Sahel is defined as areas dominated by agro-pastoral and pastoral agricultural systems (located between the 200 and 600 mm isohyets, see Map 1). However, beyond the extreme fragility of the Sahel, the Alliance also takes into account the fact that in the northern parts of the coastal countries, the agro-ecological environment has degenerated over the past several decades, approaching Sahelian conditions.

2. The Sahelian countries represented 23% of the regional population in 2010 and more than 40% of cases of chronic malnutrition.¹ These countries are particularly exposed to cyclical food

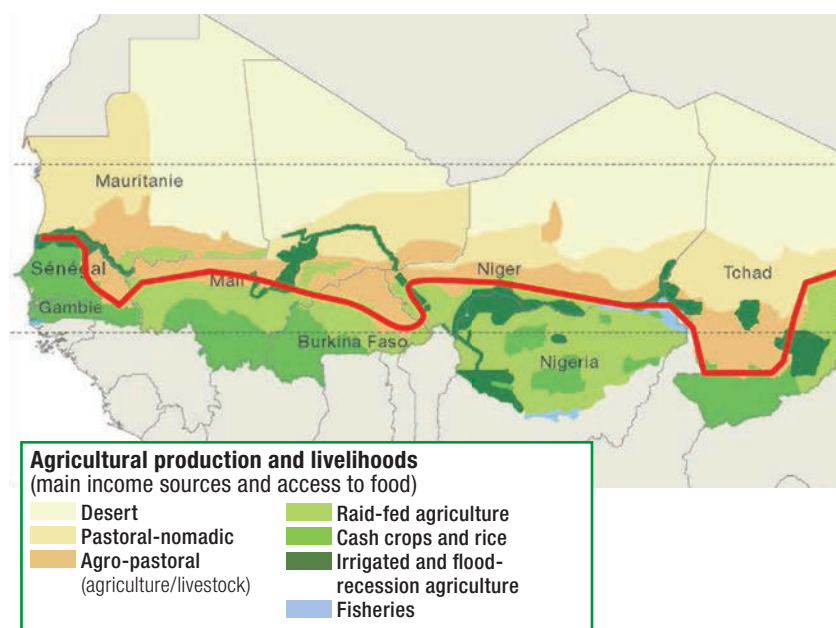
crises. Following the major drought crises of 1973 and 1984, the Sahel experienced a series of more or less acute food and nutritional crises in 2005, 2010 and 2012, while the countries in the region were also affected by the financial crisis and the subsequent global rise in food prices in 2008. The rate of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in the Sahel has exceeded the alert threshold of 10% at least since the beginning of this century. In many areas, it regularly exceeds the emergency threshold of 15%. In Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger, nearly half of the children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition. In 2011, the growth of 40 to 45% of children under five in the Sahel was lagging behind. This figure has not changed significantly since 1990. Outside of the Sahel, the prevalence of child malnutrition is equally concerning in Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

3. Food and nutritional insecurity in the Sahel has to be interpreted in the broader regional context. If the Sahelian countries remain structurally

The rate of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in the Sahel has exceeded the alert threshold of 10% at least since the beginning of this century.

the weakest and most vulnerable to shocks, West Africa in a broader sense constitutes an area of interdependencies and complementarities, where the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS member countries must act jointly to eradicate food and nutritional vulnerability. Non-Sahelian countries are also facing increasing problems of food insecurity and malnutrition. Fragile or post-crisis countries (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo, etc.) are among the most seriously affected. This situation calls for the implementation of integrated and inclusive approaches, placing greater emphasis on the regional dimension of food issues. Such common integrated strategies should aim at increasing trade flows between deficit and surplus zones and should include the implementation of national and regional policies, investing in region-wide infrastructure projects, strengthening value chains, and stimulating regional trade in agricultural and food products and further boosting transfers between deficit and surplus zones.

MAP 1 - PASTORAL AND AGRO-PASTORAL AREAS IN WEST AFRICA



Sources: CILSS, FAO, FEWS NET, SWAC/OECD.

1. FAO (2006-2009 average).

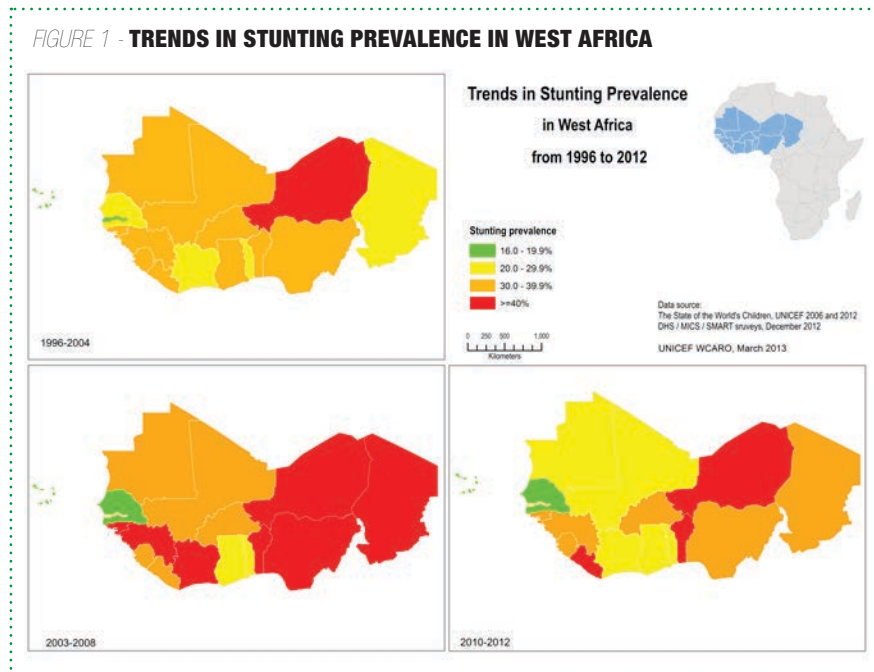


B. ROOT CAUSES OF FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL VULNERABILITY

4. THE KEY FOOD VULNERABILITY FACTORS ARE MULTIPLE AND COMPLEX

At local, national and regional levels in the Sahel, the ecological fragility of the area, stemming from climatic shocks and other environmental disasters, such as repeated droughts, floods, locust threats and desertification, as well as the negative effects of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), makes food production sporadic and unpredictable. Extreme poverty affects 20-30% of rural and urban populations. When suitable policies and measures regarding health, welfare and social security are insufficient and there are governance bottlenecks, very poor households have no access to socio-economic or financial mechanisms to cope with shocks.

5. During the past 30 years, the region has seen a sharp increase in its agricultural growth; per capita daily food availability (excluding imports) increased from 1 700 to 2 400 kilocalories between 1980 and 2007. Nevertheless, food production in the Sahel remains uncertain due to environmental risks and the degradation of productive resources. As a result, a significant proportion of the population has limited access to food in sufficient quantities and quality. The increase in food production is the result of the expansion of agricultural land area and the more widespread use of chemical fertilizers. This practice, however, has an adverse effect on soil fertility in the long run. The expansionary-extractive agricultural model is also being undermined by the high population growth rate, raising fears about the ecosystem's capacity to feed future generations. Additionally, climate change increases the risk of extreme climate events (droughts and floods). Coupled with inadequate agricultural risk management tools and



other factors (socio-political unrest, armed conflict, market dysfunctions), climate change has a strong adverse effect on food production. Decreasing yields put the livelihood of vulnerable populations (including pastoralists and agro-pastoralists) at risk, the latter often responding to shocks by the destruction of their productive assets, such as reproductive livestock. This further decreases the income generation capacity of vulnerable family farms and the informal sector, thus limiting their access to food available on the markets. In general, at least 50% of the food consumed by vulnerable agricultural households is acquired from the market and this figure is even higher for vulnerable urban households.

6. The lack of income also affects the ability of the poor to access food and basic social services (drinking water, healthcare, education – especially for girls, etc.). The said services, which are in some cases insufficient and unable to meet the needs of the population, are also unevenly

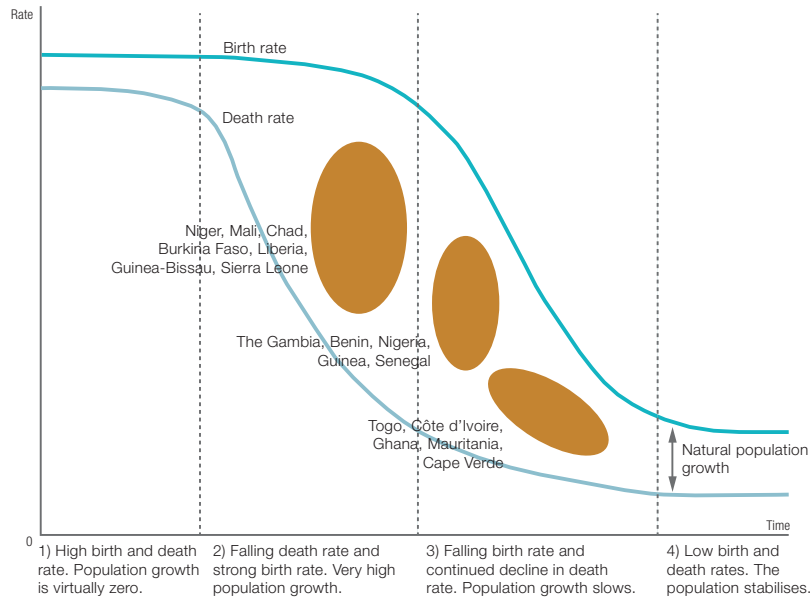
distributed across the regions. This situation is largely responsible for the prevalence of endemic diseases (malaria) and epidemics (measles, cholera, meningitis, diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, etc.), and for the inadequate care practices for young children, leading to high morbidity, malnutrition, and mortality rates. According to the WHO Efficiency Index, the Sahelian countries ranked between 162nd and 178th out of 191 countries. The completion rate of primary education is estimated at 55 to 65% in West Africa.²

7. The population of West Africa is expected to increase by 150 million over the course of the next 20 years, and to double between now and 2050. The demographic transition is under-way throughout the region (see Figure 2). The coastal countries are further along this path than the Sahelian countries, and the urban population further along than the rural population.

2. Database from UNESCO BREDA Pole in Dakar.



FIGURE 2 - DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION



Sources: SWAC/OECD, 2009; The World Bank, 2012.

Demographics and the changing dynamics between urban and rural, agricultural and non-agricultural populations will largely determine development, and food and nutritional security in the coming decades. Public policies regarding reproductive health and family planning are therefore crucial.

To support a rapid demographic transition, West Africa will have to prepare both short- and long-term responses. These should include the diffusion of contraception methods combined with media support for informing the people about the benefits of lower birth rates. As suggested by the *Ouagadougou Call to Action for Family Planning* (2011), the region will also have to scale up education (particularly for girls) in order to take advantage of the demographic dividend. Increased educational achievements will lead to economic development and strengthened food security and improved nutrition.

8. The market has become the principal source of household food supply, accounting for 60 to 80% depending on the country. The difficulty of accessing the market and its malfunctioning are therefore at the heart of food and nutritional challenges. When considering the broader impact of markets on the most vulnerable households, the notion of a market should not be restricted to the actual physical place or its actors, i.e. the traders.

This narrow focus limits the reach of relevant policies. Additionally, it does not take into account the intricate interactions between a large number of variables and actors. In reality, the complex structure of the market relies on the interconnected activities of the rural, urban, agricultural and non-agricultural populations, including the processes of cultivation, harvesting, transport, storage, processing, distribution and consumption between the time food arrives from the producer to the consumer. Vulnerable households benefit little from this value

chain, irrespective of whether they are: i) producers/consumers, who are forced to sell at low prices during the harvest and then to buy at higher prices during the lean season; ii) intermediaries in the agro-food chain (small-scale traders and processors unable to move beyond the stage of subsistence); or iii) poor workers in other sectors (e.g. small artisans).

9. These vulnerable groups are particularly exposed to the twofold effect of intra-regional and imported food-price volatility. Intra-regional volatility is generally related to climatic shocks affecting the food supply, and to high transaction costs attributable in large part to the dysfunctioning of markets for a variety of reasons, namely:

- Measures distorting trade in agricultural and food products: export bans, border hassles, taxes, etc.
- The lack of infrastructure (rail tracks and roads) linking production and consumption zones, or linking input supply centres with production and storage zones, etc.
- Large swings in the prices of factors of production, especially inputs, due to sharp fluctuations in the exchange rates, coupled with rising oil prices.

This intra-regional volatility is accentuated by international volatility, especially as regards rice, wheat, and dairy products.

10. At the household or individual level, serious social inequalities, extreme poverty (resulting mainly from unfavourable social, economic and political circumstances), difficulties with accessing basic social services (health, education, water-hygiene-sanitation, etc.), and low purchasing power push many households into the vicious cycle of debt. This leads to progressive decapitalisation through the sale of productive assets (such as land, capital, livestock), and to the deterioration of the social situation and health of these households. The



direct result of this cycle is the often irreversible erosion of their livelihoods. This paradoxical situation is clearly demonstrated in key food-producing areas in the Sahel (Maradi in Niger or Sikasso in Mali) which still suffer from high malnutrition rates. Amongst these populations, significant numbers have become net consumers, relying exclusively on the market. Their meagre income cannot provide for a sufficient, diversified and balanced diet, and consequently they cannot develop good health, nutritional and educational practices. These households have few economic opportunities of the sort that would enable them to make productive investments and increase their income.

11. Gender disparities regarding access to educational opportunities and to control over assets have a negative impact on the productivity of the agriculture sector and on community resilience. In West Africa and the Sahel, as in other regions, gender disparities persist and continue to impede economic growth.

Women are key actors in agricultural production, the marketing of food commodities, family food preparation and consumption, dietary habits, family and community health, and childrens' education. Yet they often face economic and socio-cultural constraints which limit their inclusion in decision-making in the field of agriculture, business and trade. For example, women lack autonomy and decision-making ability where

agricultural production is concerned. They often lack control over the use of income, and are frequently over-burdened with the majority of household tasks. This comes on top of the difficulties in accessing quality arable land and tenure security, credit, agricultural services, means of agricultural production, as well as basic social services (health, education, water-hygiene-sanitation, family planning, etc.). Moreover, women lack empowerment and the support they need from men to fill leadership positions in communities. Social norms often hinder equitable participation and resource allocation between men and women, and do not encourage the equitable participation of women at all levels of decision-making. These underlying structural constraints, coupled with the more visible acute effects of climatic and environmental shocks,

significantly undermine the food and nutritional security of women and children. Climate change is increasing the vulnerability of women-headed-households (WHH). Furthermore, the cumulative effects of long-term nutritional deficiencies and chronic malnutrition on productivity are very worrisome. It is estimated that nutritional vulnerability decreases overall lifetime earnings by more than 10%.

Moreover, almost two-thirds of the population of the region are under the age of 25. All aspects of resilience programmes and policies therefore need to place a special focus on Sahelian and West African youth.

BOX 1 - POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD ISSUES IN WEST AFRICA

West Africa is one of the last regions of the world not to have completed the demographic transition. In many countries, especially in the Sahelian belt, mortality is declining while the birth rate remains high. Consequently, West African countries will have to produce more and / or increase imports to meet a growing food demand. Moreover, the demographic structure is undergoing a dramatic change. On the one hand, the urban population increased by 20% between 1950 and 2010; on the other, the non-agricultural population is now equally large and is growing much faster than the agricultural population. As the result, the informal economy is expanding, particularly in rural areas, where the number of net food buyers has increased. While in 1950, it took ten agricultural producers to meet their own needs as well as the demand of one non-agricultural consumer, in 2010, one agricultural producer had to produce enough surplus to meet the need of one non-agricultural consumer. By 2030, one agricultural producers will have to produce a surplus to meet the demand of two non-agricultural consumers. This reflects both the importance of income and the growing significance of the market for agricultural and food products.

Source: SWAC/OECD Secretariat, 2012.



2 SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF RESILIENCE

12. The Global Alliance is based on a shared definition of the term “resilience” as being “The capacity of vulnerable households, families, communities and systems to face uncertainty and the risk of shocks, to withstand and respond effectively to shocks, as well as to recover and adapt in a sustainable manner”.

Resilience : “The capacity of vulnerable households, families, communities and systems to face uncertainty and the risk of shocks, to withstand and respond effectively to shocks, as well as to recover and adapt in a sustainable manner”.

This definition calls for concerted humanitarian and development efforts in order to increase the resilience of vulnerable households, families and communities and to break the cycle of recurrent food and nutritional crises. It addresses, by means of a unified approach, the causes of acute and chronic food and nutritional crises, while helping vulnerable households to increase their incomes, gain access to basic infrastructures and social services, and create wealth by sustainably strengthening their

livelihoods. This approach requires the concurrent implementation of long-term, structural programmes and short-term actions aimed at addressing the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations. Long-term programmes include human capacity building at all levels, and support for communities in their efforts to build resilience through building/strengthening community governance, social service systems (water, education, health, etc.), community food storage systems and other infrastructures, community early warning and prevention mechanisms, etc.

3 OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL AGENDA FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY & INITIATIVES FOR RESILIENCE

13. Since the early 2000s, West African and Sahelian states, together with their inter-governmental organisations, have invested in the formulation and implementation of food and nutritional security policies. This has resulted in: i) the CILSS Strategic Framework for Food Security (CSSA) adopted in 2000 with the specific aim to reduce poverty; ii) the Agricultural Policy of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (PAU), adopted in 2001; iii) the Common Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African states (ECOWAP), adopted in 2005; iv) the Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction adopted in 2007; v) the Labour and Employment Policy adopted in 2009; and vi) the Humanitarian Policy adopted in 2012. These policies and strategies converge on three priority areas of food and nutritional security: i) the search for sustainable structural solutions; ii) the implementation of

food and nutritional crisis prevention tools; and iii) the preparation of early-warning responses. In synergy with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP/NEPAD), these endeavours have also led to a regional agenda for food and nutritional security:

- 1.** The National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIPs) focus on strengthening food production, improving market conditions and strengthening vulnerable populations’ access to food. In some countries, the NAIPs are backed up by social protection programmes giving vulnerable populations access to the basic social services needed to achieve sustainable food and nutritional security.
- 2.** The NAIPs are complemented by the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP)

which has three key objectives: i) promoting strategic products for food sovereignty and food security; ii) promoting a favourable environment for the development of regional agriculture; and iii) reducing food vulnerability and promoting sustainable access to food. Within the framework of the RAIP, a Regional Food Reserve Strategy, has been adopted, including provisions for the creation of a regional food reserve and the implementation of market regulating/stimulating tools at the regional level. This strategy also provides a convergence framework for initiatives aimed at strengthening regional solidarity in the face of food and nutritional crises, among them: i) RESOGEST, a network of national food reserve agencies, facilitated by CILSS with a framework agreement signed on 2 March 2012; ii) an UEMOA initiative, launched in 2010, to improve co-ordination



among national food security stocks within the UEMOA area; and iii) the Regional Food Security Reserve, facilitated by ECOWAS. A feasibility study of the food reserve was approved by ECOWAS Ministers on 27 September 2012 in Abidjan.

3. The ratification by the Assembly of ECOWAS Ministers of Health of two important resolutions concerning nutrition: one on food fortification, adopted in 2006 (vitamin A fortified oil, iron-enriched flour, zinc, and folic acid, etc.), and another one adopted in 2009, focusing on four priorities for nutrition (vitamin A supplementation, infant and young child nutrition, the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM), and the strengthening of nutritional capacity). To these may be added the adoption of national nutrition policies as well as numerous programmes in the process of being implemented. They focus primarily on promoting: i) exclusive breastfeeding up to six months, ii) vitamin A supplementation (VAS), iii) zinc as additional diarrhea treatment, iv) the integrated management of acute malnutrition in health centres and within national nutrition policies and, v) national awareness-raising campaigns for behavioural change.

4. Financing mechanisms, including the ECOWAS Agricultural Development Fund (ECOWADF) hosted within the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and the UEMOA Regional Fund for Agricultural Development (FRDA).

5. Information, vulnerability analysis, monitoring and early-warning systems. The pillars of these information systems are: i) the Regional System for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (PREGEC), including the **Cadre harmonisé (CH)** for

the identification and analysis of at-risk zones and vulnerable populations, facilitated by CILSS; ii) the UEMOA Regional Agricultural Information System (SIAR); iii) the ECOWAS Agricultural Information System (ECOAGRIS), serving as the umbrella-platform for existing agricultural information systems; iv) the Observatory of agro-forestry-pastoral farms as well as the early-warning mechanisms of producers' organisations (POs), led by the West African Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations (ROPPE), the Billital Maroobe Network (RBM) and the Association for the Promotion of Livestock in the Sahel and Savannah (APESS).

6. The Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, an

assessment tool aimed at improving the effectiveness of food and nutritional strategies and policies. A key instrument of the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP), this code of good conduct, negotiated within the framework of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), was adopted on 17 November 2011 in Conakry by ECOWAS member countries, Chad and Mauritania.

7. Advisory and decision-making governance bodies and networks, such as the UEMOA High-Level Committee on Food Security (CHN-SA), the ECOWAS Nutritional Forum co-ordinated by the West African Health Organization (WAHO) since 2001, the ECOWAS Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (CTS-AERE), the ECOWAS Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Food (CCAA), and the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), created in 1984.

14. The regional agenda on food and nutritional security is supported by other resilience-strengthening sectoral policies (health, education, water-hygiene-sanitation, population, etc.), for example:

- ECOWAS and UEMOA Environmental Policies;
- ECOWAS Forestry Policy;
- ECOWAS Gender Policy;
- ECOWAS/WAHO Health Policy.

15. In 2012, ten countries of the Sahel and West Africa region joined the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, an international programme supported by more than 100 partners, including the donor community, the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector,

The regional agenda on food and nutritional security is supported by other resilience-strengthening sectoral policies.

and academia. The implementation of SUN at the country level is supported by the REACH Initiative (Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger and Undernutrition) which is currently being implemented in Chad, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Sierra Leone.

16. The implementation of RAIP priority areas is mostly supported through detailed studies including operational, technical and budget frameworks. These include:

- A strategic feasibility framework to support the regional rice production programme;
- A regional programme to support market regulation;
- A regional programme to support agricultural/pastoral intensification;
- A regional programme to support social safety nets.

Supplementing this operational implementation framework is the Regional Food Reserve Strategy, and more particularly the feasibility study on the regional food reserve and the RESOGEST initiative (Paragraph 13.2).



The need for analysis, monitoring and assessment of pro-resilience policies and programmes points to the establishment of a regional mechanism that would provide a framework for co-ordination and discussion with stakeholders.

17. Building on this regional agenda, a number of initiatives and programmes contributing more or less to resilience-building are under way (see non-exhaustive list in Annex 1). The Alliance must capitalise on and share information on these various experiences. This sort of mapping exercise involves the production of an analytical framework to be used in constructing a single grid for interpreting current and future initiatives and their actual contribution to resilience. This methodological framework also underpins country-level mapping studies, which will feed into the inclusive dialogue process and thereby facilitate the formulation of national resilience priorities. More generally, the need for analysis, monitoring and assessment of pro-resilience policies and programmes points to the establishment of a regional mechanism that would provide a framework for co-ordination and discussion with stakeholders. The on-going process of strengthening the RPCA network needs to incorporate this need to strengthen regional governance for resilience.

18. With the support of development partners, a number of other initiatives led by agricultural producers' and livestock farmers' organisations (ROPPA, APSS and RBM), contribute to build resilience, including:

- The Observatory of agro-forestry-pastoral farms, led by ROPPA, APSS and RBM, to improve the targeting of family farms;
- The capacity-building programme to strengthen farmer organisations' early-warning mechanisms;

- The Farmer Organisations' Support Programme in Africa with the establishment of a fund to support vulnerable producers' organisations (Training Fund).

19. The regional food security and nutritional agenda relying on the NAIPs and the RAIP, does not sufficiently integrate the issues of resilience, both in terms of technical content and approach. Some of the concerns relate to: i) approaches to livelihoods and the prospects of vulnerable populations moving out of the poverty trap, ii) issues of social protection and nutrition, iii) the essential synergy between humanitarian and structural responses, and iv) forms of agriculture that sustainably protect the environment and promote economic efficiency and social equity.

In response to this situation, the region formulated a Zero Hunger Strategy, approved on 27 September 2012 by ECOWAS ministers in charge of agriculture and food security. Presenting itself as an approach towards a pro-resilience agricultural policy, the Zero Hunger Strategy aims to:

- a.** Develop a legal foundation by: i) gradually and systematically incorporating the principle of the right to food in national constitutions, and amending the ECOWAS treaty by introducing the same provision, and ii) developing a legal framework for family farming;
- b.** Place a strong emphasis on women and marginalised groups in food security and nutritional actions;
- c.** Prioritise strategies, policies and programmes which strongly contribute to achieving *Zero Hunger* and reallocate human and financial resources accordingly: i) analyse the impact and the governance of

policies and strategies on hunger eradication and the nutritional situation; ii) integrate resilience-building dimensions within the NAIPs and the RAIP; iii) focus on policy tools targeting the most vulnerable populations exposed to hunger and malnutrition;

- d.** Ensure the coherence of major hunger and malnutrition programmes;
- e.** Develop predictable and secure financial mechanisms to achieve the Zero Hunger goal;
- f.** Rationalise the functioning of existing institutions by clarifying their mandates and promoting responsible governance;
- g.** Build/assert regional leadership.

The Zero Hunger Strategy is therefore based on what exists, but aims to tailor it to achieve greater efficiency in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Additionally, it aims to develop new initiatives based on the shortcomings identified.



4 AGIR: PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENCE-BUILDING

A. APPROACH

20. During the high-level consultation on 18 June 2012, stakeholders decided to combine their efforts by launching a global partnership for resilience. They have committed to work together to support and accelerate the implementation of the West African regional agenda for food and nutritional security. AGIR proposes to conduct complementary actions at three levels: i) local, by supporting local communities and endogenous initiatives and mechanisms; ii) national, by supporting investment programmes and existing consensus-building mechanisms;

and iii) regional, by supporting the regional plans and mechanisms put in place by the three regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS). The actions conducted within the framework of the Alliance in support of the three regional organisations will benefit the whole of the Sahelian and West African region (15 ECOWAS member states, Chad and Mauritania). This is true in particular of certain cross-cutting priorities; for example, supporting the implementation of the *Cadre harmonisé* (CH) for identifying and analysing at-risk zones and vulnerable populations

within the framework of the RPCA; strengthening early-warning systems; applying the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management; creating the Regional Food Reserve; strengthening governance in the areas of social protection, conflict prevention and management, and the use of natural resources, etc.

At the first two levels (local, national), the present regional roadmap constitutes a reference framework that will be adapted to country-specific contexts, respecting the principles of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management.

B. TARGET POPULATIONS

21. As defined in Paragraph 12, resilience-building activities target populations who, under the effects of complex, intertwined factors acting on the micro, meso and macro levels, are facing a permanent state of food and nutritional insecurity. In 2012, the crisis was estimated to have affected 6 million people living in severely food-insecure conditions. The following household groups are particularly vulnerable:

- **Small-scale vulnerable agricultural households** most often physically distant from or poorly connected to markets (due to lack of transport infrastructure). This segment often faces a situation of insecure land tenure, degraded resources (land, pastures and water), and has little capital to invest in the

productive system. In most cases, these agricultural households do not produce enough to feed themselves (often barely 40% of their needs) and have few opportunities to generate income.

- **Agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households** whose livestock is continually threatened by recurring weather hazards. They lack access to food and have few opportunities for diversification and income generation.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TARGETED VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS

TARGETS	SHARED CHARACTERISTICS	SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS
Vulnerable agricultural households	1. Poorly connected to the market and generally victims of structural adjustment and liberalisation policies (difficulty accessing financing, inputs, agricultural goods and services, land tenure insecurity, etc.);	
Agro-pastoralists and pastoralists, artisan fishermen	2. Agricultural risk, uncertainty and agricultural scarcity (climate change, locust threat, agricultural prices/markets, etc.);	
	3. Facing continuous degradation of natural and fish resources, soil fertility and the weakness of structures responsible for governance;	
	4. Few opportunities for agricultural or non-agricultural diversification.	
Poor workers in the informal economy		1. Trapped permanently in poverty and debt;
		2. Difficulty accessing basic social services (health, education, water-hygiene-sanitation, etc.).
		1. Continuous degradation of natural pastures and fishery resources;
		2. Problems linked to livestock mobility resulting in frequent conflict;
		3. Permanently facing the risk of losing productive capital (livestock), at the mercy of the frequency and intensity of droughts.
		1. Facing job insecurity; permanently facing unemployment.



Artisan fishers, facing the continuous degradation of fisheries, are also part of this group.

- **Poor workers in the informal sector, both in rural and urban areas.**

This group is in large part composed of younger generations, facing unem-

ployment or a precarious employment situation and, as a consequence, the risk of being targeted by criminal and terrorist group activities.

In these three categories of households, the most vulnerable are children under the age of five, and parti-

cularly those under the age of two, pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers, as well as women-headed-households (WHH) and the elderly. Every year, several thousand children in the region die due to malnutrition-related causes.³

3. Acute malnutrition affects 10-14% of children in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal and more than 15% in Chad.

C. OBJECTIVES/ STRATEGIC PILLARS

“Structurally reduce, in a sustainable manner, food and nutritional vulnerability by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West African policies.”

22. The overall objective of the Alliance is to “Structurally reduce, in a sustainable manner, food and nutritional vulnerability by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West African policies”. In the next 20 years, the Alliance aims to completely eradicate hunger and malnutrition (Objective “Zero Hunger”). In the shorter term, the Alliance aims to build resilience among the vulnerable communities and households in the Sahel and West Africa so that they are better able to resist shocks.

23. Four specific strategic objectives (SOs) have been identified, to be applied at the local, national and regional levels as well as on different timescales (short-, medium- and long-term):

S01. Improve social protection for the most vulnerable households and communities in order to secure their livelihoods

Social safety nets are relatively new tools. They are fairly few and far between and are usually financed inter-

nationally. For example, the *Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty Initiative* in Ghana (still in the exploratory phase), provides opportunities for sharing experiences with other countries. The major chal-

lenges of implementing such instruments include: i) their institutionalisation and the sustainability of their financing, ii) linking social safety nets to other components of the social protection system and measures to support livelihoods, and iii) implementing targeting mechanisms that are appropriate and accepted by all stakeholders, including policy-makers. Targeted interventions as part of this objective are primarily based on helping countries to implement sustainable national programmes and mechanisms for food and nutritional security safety nets. This refers back to the regional programme in support of national social safety nets (see Specific Objective 3 of the RAIP: “Reducing food insecurity and promoting sustainable access to food”).

PRIORITY MEASURES INCLUDE:

a. Social protection: Developing and implementing national social protection policies and programmes for food security; strengthening the capacity of countries to provide high quality social services, canteens in all schools, etc.

b. Food reserves (at community, national and regional levels), and local solidarity mechanisms;

S02. Strengthen the nutrition of vulnerable households

This pillar pays particular attention to pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers and children up to 2 years (the window of opportunity offered by the “1 000 days”). It is in line with the priorities laid down as part of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, which several countries have already adhered to, including Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

PRIORITY MEASURES INCLUDE:

a. Taking greater account of nutritional problems in all sectoral policy frameworks (agriculture, education, health, social protection, water-hygiene-sanitation) and strengthening the institutional position of nutrition within national governments.

b. Preventing and treating diseases with high morbidity and mortality: malaria, diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, etc.

c. Addressing reproductive health issues: birth spacing, delaying the age of the first pregnancy, etc.

d. Developing feeding programmes for infants and young children: access to age-appropriate quality food,



breastfeeding, vitamin A supplementation, introduction of complementary foods;

- e. Improving and promoting good hygiene, health care, and nutritional practices: providing sanitation and hygiene services, fighting against enteropathies (with the focus on behaviour and social norms), and stimulating young children.
- f. Strengthening access to health and nutritional services: prevention and treatment of acute and chronic malnutrition, access to nutritional counselling, promotion of the use of local food products in response to nutritional needs, education of mothers and pregnant women, screenings, etc.

S03. Sustainably improve agricultural and food production, the incomes of vulnerable households and their access to food

PRIORITY MEASURES INCLUDE:

- a. Agricultural investment targeting marginalised and vulnerable agricultural households, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists: provide an enabling environment for modernisation (legal status, access to land and tenure security, infrastructure, credit, insurance and agricultural risk management tools, capacity building, market access, value chain promotion, etc.);
- b. Promotion of sustainable agricultural intensification, taking into account the three basic dimensions of sustainability: environmental (maintaining soil fertility, biodiversity conservation, water management), economic (profitability, improvement of marketing channels and supply), and social (empower representative rural stakeholders and strengthen local area management structures);

- c. Sustainable management of natural resources, particularly water, soil, and vegetation (including natural pastures), through the improvement of social dialogue and the strengthening of natural resource governance structures, from the local to the regional and national levels. Special emphasis needs to be placed on land issues which are at the centre of concerns.

- d. Agricultural and non-agricultural diversification. This involves job creation and other income-generating activities in rural and urban areas, particularly food processing. It also means targeting investment on vulnerable households in the informal sector with the object of increasing incomes and promoting access to basic social services (health, education, drinking water, etc.) for the most vulnerable groups;
- e. Strengthening of markets (at the local, national and regional levels) and value chains: networking and capacity-building of private market actors, instruments to stimulate the markets and promote value chains, promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (in particular those involved in the production of food supplements and fortified food). Also involved is the need to develop protection measures/tools to mitigate the impact of price volatility on the most vulnerable populations, etc.

- f. Strengthening of agricultural research capacity to focus on the needs of vulnerable groups.

Four specific strategic objectives (SOs) have been identified, to be applied at the local, national and regional levels as well as on different timescales (short-, medium- and long-term).

S04. Strengthen governance in food and nutritional security

PRIORITY MEASURES INCLUDE:

- a. Developing early warning systems and improving targeting of the most vulnerable households in rural and urban settings: Strengthening of the PREGEC and implementation of the *Cadre harmonisé* (CH), SIAR, ECOAGRIS, local early-warning and prevention mechanisms, etc.;
- b. Strengthening the governance capacities of states, IGOs, CSOs, the private sector, etc.: Orientation/ leadership, resource mobilisation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and capitalisation, etc.;
- c. Co-ordinating and strengthening the synergy and efficiency of interventions at all levels (local, national, regional and international): RPCA, application of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, lobbying / policy advocacy, etc.;
- d. Governance in the areas of:
 - Population/development strategies;
 - Gender and food/nutritional security;
 - Nutrition: institutional visibility and positioning, the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) programme;
 - Prevention and management of conflicts stemming from the use of natural resources;
 - Rural code, land tenure rights, rural labour code;
 - Integrated approaches to food security, nutrition, water & sanitation;
 - Inter-sectoral and multi-actor approaches.



- e. Adapting to climate change and enhancing capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at the national and regional levels;
- f. Research-action and knowledge sharing through support for innovation and proactive approaches to promote

more effective food and nutritional security policies: documentation, capitalisation and dissemination of best practices in food and nutritional security; strengthening agricultural research and extension.

24. Gender empowerment, climate-smart agriculture, and environmental protection will be mainstreamed across all these types of action and levels of intervention (local, national and regional).

D. ADDED VALUE OF THE ALLIANCE

25. Building on the Zero Hunger target within the next 20 years, the core approach of the Alliance is to channel the efforts of regional and international stakeholders towards a common results framework.

To this end, the Alliance aims to fill the gaps in the regional food and nutritional security agenda (see Section 3). Its added value lies in supporting regional leadership and governance in food and nutritional security, with the purpose of improving the effectiveness of collective action (see Box 2).

BOX 2 - THE ADDED VALUE OF THE ALLIANCE

1. Creating a favourable environment for placing resilience at the heart of food security and nutrition strategies and policies, by:

- Reviewing policies and programmes and strengthening their “resilience” dimension;
- Providing an approach to and governance framework for food security and nutrition, which primarily target the structurally most vulnerable populations;
- Promoting inter-sectoral co-ordination;
- Offering advocacy, lobbying and supervision for political and financial commitment over the long term; mobilising and pooling efforts aimed at long-term structural investments.

2. Aligning individual and collective actions within the Resilience Results Framework, by:

- Promoting accountability and results frameworks at different levels (local, national, regional and international): monitoring and evaluation of individual and collective performances;
- Providing a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue, exchange and accountability;
- Co-ordinating the political and financial commitment of international technical and financial partners.

3. Promoting mutual learning and exchange of best practices, through:

- Documentation, and sharing of lessons learned and successful experiences;
- Mechanisms for monitoring impacts;
- Encouraging gender-sensitive approaches in governance and policy-making which emphasize the role of women in sustainable approaches to resilience.



5 AGIR DASHBOARD

A. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

26. The Alliance is based on the following principles:

1. A common understanding by stakeholders of the concept of resilience, the ultimate goal of which is to “Strengthen the capacity of the most vulnerable populations to cope with the risk of shocks, anticipate and mitigate the effects of shocks, and then to respond and adapt in a sustainable manner to quickly and effectively restore their livelihoods and their social, productive and economic capacities in order to gradually become less vulnerable to food and nutritional crises”. This means to advance the way people think about and understand the root causes of the chronic nature of food and nutritional insecurity – and to improve the synergy between short-term responses to food crises (emergency/humanitarian) and structural ones addressing chronic situations.

2. Support for the implementation and strengthening of the resilience-related policies for agricultural investment, food and nutritional security, health, education, social protection, market development, etc. The Alliance is consistent with the principle of alignment with priorities of the countries and regional organisations,

in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. In order to firmly establish its impact, the Alliance’s aim is to strengthen food and nutritional security governance at community/local, national and regional levels.

3. Targeting measures primarily at the vulnerable populations most exposed to recurrent shocks, especially poor and marginalised agricultural households, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in ecologically fragile areas, artisan fishermen and poor urban and rural households in the informal economy. AGIR aims at “Assisting these populations to emerge gradually and definitively from the vicious cycle of poverty and chronic food and nutritional crises – in short, to promote sustainable development prospects.”

4. Inter-sectoral co-ordination, and the principle of subsidiarity: On the basis of a clear definition of roles and responsibilities, these two principles apply to the different levels of intervention (local/community, national and regional levels), and to the categories of actors.

The Alliance is consistent with the principle of alignment with priorities of the countries and regional organisations, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

B. PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

27. The following priority interventions constitute the Alliance’s Regional Guidance Framework. These are to be adapted and prioritised on the basis of the relevant national policies and plans, with the objective of facilitating

the development and implementation of short-, medium- and long-term operational and financial frameworks as well as monitoring and assessment mechanisms at the local and national levels.



PILLAR 1: IMPROVE SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND HOUSEHOLDS IN ORDER TO SECURE THEIR LIVELIHOODS

IMMEDIATE AND SHORT-TERM		MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM	
INTERVENTIONS	RESULTS	INTERVENTIONS	RESULTS
LOCAL & NATIONAL	Development and implementation of national social protection programmes (social safety nets) for the restoration of livelihoods.	The implementation of strategic policy frameworks for social protection and provisions for basic social services (health, education, hygiene-water-sanitation).	i) Improved consistency between social protection policies and food and nutritional security policies; ii) Social protection interventions are better co-ordinated and linked to resilience-building.
	Implementation of national programmes strengthening local food storage capacities and local solidarity mechanisms to deal with food and nutritional crises.		
NATIONAL & REGIONAL	Implementation of RESOGEST and the Regional Food Reserve.		

PILLAR 2: STRENGTHEN THE NUTRITION OF VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS

IMMEDIATE AND SHORT-TERM		MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM	
INTERVENTIONS	RESULTS	INTERVENTIONS	RESULTS
LOCAL & NATIONAL	Implementation of structural programmes: i) Strengthening prevention/treatment of diseases with high morbidity and mortality; ii) Reproductive health.	Implementation of structural programmes for access to health and nutritional community-based health, hygiene-water-sanitation, family planning, nutrition education.	i) Social and economic capacities for improved diet and nutrition; ii) Malnutrition rates lowered to below 10%; iii) Reduced rates of infant mortality linked to illness (malaria, etc.) and malnutrition.
	Implementation of programmes focused on feeding of infants and young children: quality food, breastfeeding, vitamin supplements, etc.		
	Improvement and promotion of good child care and feeding practices: service offering hygiene and sanitation, stimulation of young children, etc.	Strengthening the governance of nutrition: reinforcement the institutional position of nutrition within national governance frameworks.	Nutritional issues are taken into account in sectoral policies.

- SAME LEVEL OF PRIORITY FOR ALL COUNTRIES
- HIGH PRIORITY IN THE SAHELIAN BELT



**PILLAR 3: SUSTAINABLY IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTIVITY,
THE INCOMES OF VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS AND THEIR ACCESS TO FOOD**

	IMMEDIATE AND SHORT-TERM		MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM	
	INTERVENTIONS	RESULTS	INTERVENTIONS	RESULTS
LOCAL & NATIONAL	The implementation of agricultural investment programmes focused on sustainable intensification (land, credit, insurance, risk management tools, markets, infrastructure, production, post-harvest/storage, processing equipment, etc.) targeted at: i) Marginalised family farms; ii) Women and youth.	i) Increased and more diversified incomes; ii) Strengthened livelihoods; iii) Strengthened role of women in the food economy and the prevention of food crises; iv) Sustainable use of productive resources.	Implementation of programmes for: i) Job creation (applied to the informal sector); ii) Value chain promotion; iii) Agricultural and non-agricultural diversification; iv) Support for income-generating activities for the most vulnerable.	i) Increased incomes and reinforced access to health services, education, etc. for the most vulnerable; ii) Gradual escape for the most vulnerable from the vicious cycle of poverty.
	Implementation of agricultural risk management tools to include climate-smart agriculture practices and crop diversification with special emphasis on land, water/soil conservation, and vegetation (forests and pastures) targeted at: i) Marginalised family farms, ii) Women-headed households (WHH).	i) Increased adaptive capacity of marginalised farms and WHH to mitigate and respond to environmental and climatic stress; ii) Reduced vulnerability to food and nutritional crises.		
NATIONAL & REGIONAL	Implementation of an investment programme targeting pastoralism: economy (incomes), access to basic social services (health, education, WASH), zootechnical and veterinary services, land, pastoral hydraulics, etc.	i) Strengthened pastoral economy; ii) Reduced vulnerability of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists; iii) Reduced risk of conflict and improved security in the Saharo-Saharan belt.	Market strengthening and promotion of value chains: Marketing infrastructure; Support for the agro-food processing & distribution sector; Standardisation, quality, etc.	i) Improved access to food among the most vulnerable groups; ii) Increased incomes among agricultural producers.
	Implementation of regional policies for free movement of goods and services and for good trade practices favouring the protection of vulnerable groups against price volatility.	i) Dynamic local and national markets; ii) Increased access to food among the most vulnerable.		
	Implementation of structural programmes for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and soil fertility: legislation, tariff measures, support for private mechanisms and systems, etc.	i) Improved agricultural yields, producer incomes and food production; ii) Ecologically intensive production systems are upgraded.		
REGIONAL	Implementation of regional initiatives to promote strategic agricultural products (rice, meat, milk, etc.); trade, production and market infrastructure, etc.	i) Investment-friendly business climate (political, commercial) for the implementation of national programmes to boost food production.	Drafting and validation of a West African Land Charter.	i) Secure land tenure for the most vulnerable; ii) Improved business climate favourable to sustainable investments in agriculture.

SAME LEVEL OF PRIORITY FOR ALL COUNTRIES

HIGH PRIORITY IN THE SAHELIAN BELT



PILLAR 4 : STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE IN FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

IMMEDIATE AND SHORT-TERM		MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM	
INTERVENTIONS	RESULTS	INTERVENTIONS	RESULTS
LOCAL & NATIONAL	Strengthening of the PREGEC (data collection, analysis, dissemination, dialogue and consultation mechanism) and of community early-warning mechanisms.	Strengthening governance in Demographics/Development: accelerated implementation of the Ouagadougou "Call for Action": i) Reproductive health and family planning; ii) Reduction of maternal and infant mortality.	i) Improved response to food and nutrition challenges, economic growth and poverty reduction; ii) Improved alignment of demographic policies and food and nutritional policies.
	Implementation of the Cadre harmonisé (CH).		
LOCAL & NATIONAL	Strengthening the resilience dimension of policies and strategies.	Strengthening of capacity-building in governance (governments, IGOs, agricultural producers, civil society, private sector, etc.).	i) Strengthened capacity for leadership and orientation, resource mobilisation and implementation of food and nutritional security policies.
	Implementation of local, national and regional strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR).		
	Implementation of Research-Action and Anticipation: Promotion of Food and Nutritional Security Best Practices (FNS).	Implementation of the Zero Hunger Initiative.	i) Strengthened policy, institutional and legal frameworks for the promotion of the right to food.
	Strengthening of governance in the prevention and management of conflicts related to the use of natural resources.		
	Capacity-building for the promotion of the gender, food and nutritional security approach.	i) Accelerated dissemination of FNS best practices; ii) Enhanced effectiveness of FNS policies.	
	Strengthening of the RPCA and the application of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (monitoring/evaluation mechanisms, capacity-building of civil society).	i) Reduced agricultural vulnerability related to climate change; (ii) Increased production and food supply stability.	
REGIONAL	Strengthening of the RPCA and the application of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (monitoring/evaluation mechanisms, capacity-building of civil society).		
		i) Strengthened gender dimension in FNS strategies and policies; ii) Nutritional issues are taken into account in sectoral policies.	

SAME LEVEL OF PRIORITY FOR ALL COUNTRIES



CONSISTENCY WITH RAIP / ECOWAP AND CAADP / NEPAD

AGIR PILLARS		RAIP / ECOWAP MOBILISING PROGRAMMES			CAADP / NEPAD PILLARS				
		1	2	3	1	2	3	4	A
1	Improve social protection for the most vulnerable communities and households in order to secure their livelihoods			●			●		
2	Strengthen nutrition of vulnerable households			●			●		
3	Sustainably improve agricultural and food productivity and the incomes of the most vulnerable households, and improve their access to food	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
4	Strengthen governance in food and nutritional security	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

RAIP / ECOWAP Mobilising Programmes:

1. Promoting strategic food products for food security and sovereignty;
2. Promoting an enabling global environment for regional agricultural development;
3. Reducing food vulnerability and promoting sustainable access to food.

CAADP / NEPAD Pillars:

1. Land and water management;
2. Market access;
3. Food supply and hunger reduction;
4. Agricultural research;
- A. Integration of livestock, forestry and fishery.

C. KEY INDICATORS

28. Annex 2 presents some key performance and impact indicators. Table 1 summarises the Results Framework in line with the aims of the Alliance. These indicators are mostly drawn from

the region's existing policies and programmes, as well as from regional and international initiatives in which many countries in the region participate, such as the Scaling-Up Nutrition movement.

The definition of resilience indicators will also capitalise on the outcomes of other on-going initiatives (for example, within FAO), in particular during the process of formulating national priorities.



TABLE 1. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

	IMPACT (INDICATORS)	VERIFIABLE EVIDENCE	ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS
Overall Objective: To structurally reduce, in a sustainable manner, food and nutritional vulnerability by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West African policies - Zero Hunger in 20 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of global chronic malnutrition less than 20%; • Decrease in the percentage of people structurally vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity; • Significant increase in the coverage of food and nutritional needs by regional agricultural production (level of regional food self-sufficiency); • Change in the Global Resilience Index of vulnerable households, families, communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policies and programmes on resilience with operational funding mechanisms in the countries concerned; • Strengthened RPCA acting as an international platform for co-ordination and decision-making on resilience; • Operational frameworks for inter-sectoral co-ordination, dialogue, monitoring and the mobilisation of political and financial commitments to resilience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure in the co-ordination of partners in the international community at different levels (national, regional, international); • Failure of co-ordination within regional organisations (IGOs), between them, and between different sectoral departments at country level; • Low level of political and financial commitment on the part of countries; • Poor alignment of national and regional policies and countries on the Results Framework.
Specific Objective 1: To improve social protection for the most vulnerable communities and households in order to secure their livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations accessing basic social services (health, education, hygiene-water-sanitation); • Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations that have increased their income and been able to invest thanks to social transfers; • Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations with access to a balanced diet, especially during lean periods and price volatility; • Decrease in seasonal and inter-annual variation in the prevalence of overall acute malnutrition; • Reduction of at least 50% in the proportion of vulnerable populations in areas liable to major risks and shocks seeking food aid and humanitarian assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National food security and nutrition safety net strategies and programmes with operational funding frameworks; • Physical and financial components of the Regional Food Reserve; • Local/community-based solidarity plans to address food crises and disaster prevention, coupled with operational funding mechanisms; • Percentage of national budgets dedicated to social protection measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of political will and mobilisation of financial resources (own resources and external) of the states and their IGOs; • Governance mechanisms not ensuring transparency or promoting citizen participation, but favouring poor targeting and errors of exclusion; • Insufficient local governance at the country level.
Specific Objective 2: To strengthen the nutrition of vulnerable households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of global chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years less than 20%; • Prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under 5 years less than 5% throughout the year; • Rate of child mortality less than 2 deaths per 10 000 children per day, and decrease in the prevalence of diseases with high morbidity and mortality; • Increase in the percentage of pregnant women and children up to 24 months (first 1 000 days of life) having a balanced diet; • Significant progress on spacing of births and increasing the age of first pregnancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National policies and development programmes incorporating nutrition issues with operational funding frameworks; • Structural programmes on nutrition, reproductive health, reduction of diseases with high morbidity and mortality, with funding frameworks for countries' structurally vulnerable areas (rural and urban). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of political and financial commitment to the institutionalisation of nutrition and population issues in development strategies.



TABLE 1. RESULTS FRAMEWORK (CONTINUED)

	IMPACT (INDICATORS)	VERIFIABLE EVIDENCE	ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS
Specific Objective 3: To sustainably improve agricultural and food productivity and the incomes of vulnerable households and improve their access to food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant increase in incomes (from sustainable intensification of food and cash agricultural products and non-agricultural jobs) and purchasing power of vulnerable groups and their access to food; • Significant increase in the share of local agricultural products in the overall foods and other nutritional supplements value chains at local and regional levels; • Level of economic sustainability: sustainable increase in production and productivity of strategic food chains (cereals, meat, milk, etc.); intensity of input use; change in the number of assets in relation to the increase in land under cultivation; • Level of increase in production and availability of food with high nutritional value; • Upward change in the consumption score and dietary diversity score in all countries; • Reduction in inter and intra-annual food prices <25%; • Level of environmental sustainability of agricultural production: index of soil degradation, energy intensity, rate of biodiversity, level of exploitation of water resources; • Level of social and institutional sustainability: change in the number of affiliated farmers' organisations; level of social conflict over access to natural resources, including land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated national budgets for the NAIPs with resilience priorities; • National frameworks for environmentally sustainable agricultural investment in strategic food systems and food processing (business environment, funding, infrastructure, taxation); • National platforms for agricultural risk management; • Regional Land Charter and national mechanisms to secure land tenure for family farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists; • Regional support instruments (production and trade) for strategic food products; • Implementation of regional tools to support production and strengthen agri-food trade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capacity of states and their IGOs to mobilise financial resources; • Insufficient political will of states and their IGOs in support of structural investment in food producing agriculture, trade and economic diversification opportunities, in particular for women.
Specific Objective 4: To strengthen governance in food and nutritional security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority investment frameworks for the empowerment of women in food and nutritional security; • More effective targeting of structurally vulnerable populations and better prevention of food and nutritional crises; • Level of increase in capacity of countries and the region to anticipate and respond to climate change and disaster risk; • Level of compliance with food safety and nutritional standards at national and regional levels; • Programmatic frameworks favouring the inclusion of the population variable in sectoral development policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies & programmes incorporating the resilience dimension; • Sectoral policies, in particular food security and nutrition, incorporating the population variable; • Operational framework for external review of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management; • Strengthened RPCA, PREGEC and Cadre harmonisé; • Local, national and regional Institutions & Mechanisms for early-warning, climate change adjustment and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); • Operational political and financial frameworks for promoting the role of women in food security and nutrition; • National R & E systems and sustainable funding mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political instability in the countries and lack of continuity of the political and financial commitment to reforms; • Insufficient alignment and support on the part of the international community.



6 TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION

29. The implementation of AGIR rests on the existing West African technical and political leadership mechanisms

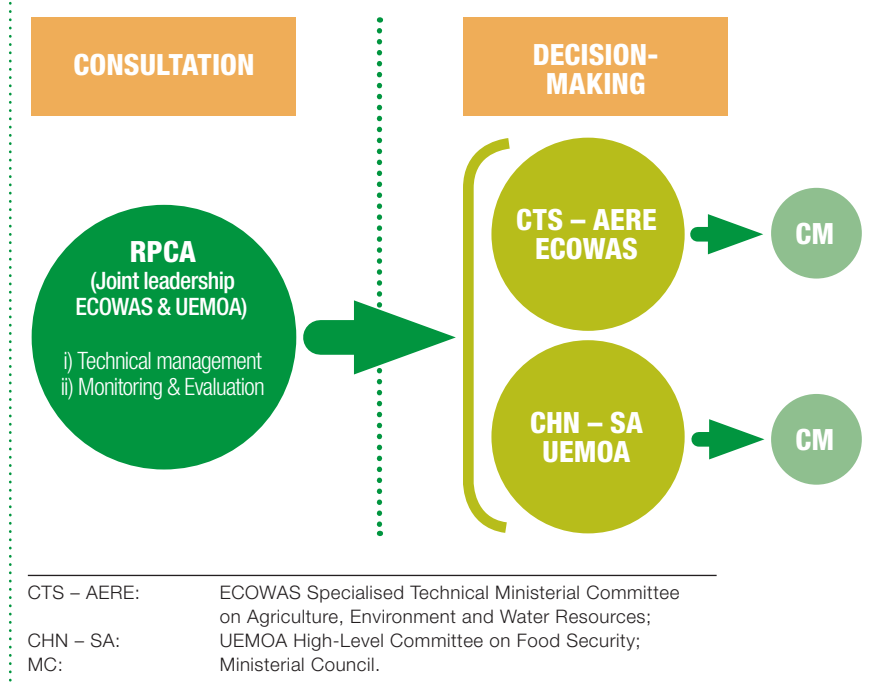
designed to help strengthen the regional, national and local institutions.

A. POLITICAL GOVERNANCE

30. Based on West African leadership, AGIR comes under the joint political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA, promoting subsidiarity in the interest of efficiency, with UEMOA ensuring that actions are co-ordinated at the level of its eight member states and ECOWAS overseeing overall co-ordination. The two organisations will be enhancing and strengthening the role of CILSS, which serves as a technical agency for the implementation (design, monitoring, technical co-ordination at the national and regional levels) of activities within its area of expertise. Other regional organisations or technical bodies will be mobilised in their specific fields of competence (research, health, education, etc.).

The ECOWAS Specialised Technical Ministerial Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (CTS-AERE) and the UEMOA High-Level Committee on Food Security (CHN-SA) are the Alliance's main regional decision-making bodies. The Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) platform will,

BOX 3 - GOVERNANCE AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL



via the RPCA, provide the common space for dialogue, debate, lobbying and advocacy for the Alliance on the international stage.

B. TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT

31. At the regional level, the Alliance relies on the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), of which ECOWAS and UEMOA provide joint political leadership. Providing a shared space for dialogue, the RPCA serves as the Alliance's framework for consultation, monitoring and evaluation. Proposals and recommendations formulated by the RPCA are submitted to the decision-making bodies of

ECOWAS and UEMOA. The RPCA holds two meetings per year: one in April and one in December. At each of these meetings, a session is dedicated to the Alliance.

At the operational level, a small Technical Unit, hosted within the CILSS and under the leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA, provides backing for and facilitates the implementation of

the Regional Roadmap. More specifically, its mission involves: i) providing information and advocacy at country and regional levels, ii) supporting and facilitating inclusive dialogue for the formulation of national priorities and fostering synergy between country-level stakeholders, iii) co-ordinating and facilitating the operational implementation of regional priorities, iv) monitoring the implementation of priorities



and sharing and making use of the lessons learned; and (v) co-ordinating (in collaboration with the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat) the organisation of the Alliance's monitoring and orientation meetings.

At the national level, the existing consultation mechanisms (such as the national councils or committees on food security in some countries), authorities involving most of the ministries concerned with questions of food and nutritional security (including health, education, etc.), as well as all the other stakeholders, agriculturalists, agro-pastoralists, pastoralists, civil society, the private sector, technical and financial partners, etc. will serve as fora for dialogue, guidance, co-ordination and monitoring of the Alliance's implementation.

At the decentralised level, regional structures and local mechanisms (regional councils, local governments,

etc.) will serve as platforms for dialogue, programming and implementation follow-up.

32. At all levels, agricultural producers' and pastoralists' organisations, civil society and the private sector will have their own specific area for dialogue enabling them to: i) strengthen their dialogue and organisational capacity; ii) consult their respective grassroots and put forward a common position on strategic choices. Similarly, other platforms for dialogue/consultation set up as part of sectoral resilience-building policies and strategies (health, education, demographics and development, social questions, etc.) will also be enhanced. This inclusive approach is designed to encourage and promote improved inter-sectoral co-operation and the consistency of initiatives and policies furthering resilience.

At all levels, agricultural producers' and pastoralists' organisations, civil society and the private sector will have their own specific area for dialogue.

7 CO-ORDINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY⁴

33. The role of the Alliance is to mobilise, in a co-ordinated manner, the international community around resilience in the Sahel and West Africa. To this effect, international community stakeholders have agreed on the following principles:

- **At the global level,** the technical and financial partners in the Alliance will establish a co-ordinating mechanism that will seek in particular to: i) sustain the political commitment of the technical and financial partners; ii) facilitate continuous political interaction between the international community and Sahelian and West African policymakers; iii) facilitate the co-ordination and development of shared positions.

- **At the country level,** national co-ordination mechanisms (based on already existing mechanisms) will also be made responsible for monitoring – in close collaboration with the national structures in charge of food and nutritional security – the political commitment and co-ordination of the measures taken. Those in charge of these national co-ordinating mechanisms will report on their actions and participate in specific sessions dedicated to the Alliance during RPCA meetings.

4. This question was discussed by technical and financial partners of AGIR on 9 April, 2013 in Paris. The Summary Conclusions of this meeting supplement the Regional Roadmap.



1 SOME INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES CONTRIBUTING TO RESILIENCE-BUILDING

Building on this regional food and nutritional agenda, and with the support of various technical and financial partners, several programmes and initiatives are being implemented in the region, including:

- 1.** The FSTP / Part 2, based on the achievements of the regional operational strategy of the CILSS (SOSAR), is supported by the EU. It aims at strengthening the link between information and decision-making with the object of improving food security in ECOWAS and CILSS member countries.
- 2.** The regional programme to strengthen the resilience of populations to recurrent food and nutritional insecurity in the Sahel with the support of the AfDB, whose aim is to increase, on a sustainable basis, agro-forestry-pastoral and fisheries productivity in a context of climate change in the Sahel. Building on the priorities of the NAIPs and the RAIP, the programme aims to increase investment in resilience and medium- and long-term actions targeting vulnerable households, to reduce emergency aid costs, and break the cycle of recurring famine.
- 3.** The regional programme in response to the 2012 Sahel crisis, with the support of the FAO. It first responded to urgent needs for 2012. In a second phase, it addresses the recovery needs in 2013 and then the longer-term needs for 2014 and 2015.
- 4.** The programme for strengthening food crisis prevention and management instruments in the Sahel, with the support of the FAO. It supports the implementation of various regional tools for food and nutritional crisis prevention and management (PREGEC, HF, RESOGEST).
- 5.** A framework programme for strengthening resilience in Sahelian countries suffering from recurrent food insecurity, which has the support of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and covers seven countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.
- 6.** The Sahel Facility, with the support of the West African Development Bank (BOAD), aimed at reducing agricultural vulnerability by promoting irrigation practices and preventing post-harvest losses. Based on co-operation between the BOAD and KfW, a mechanism for funding projects on climate change adaptation is being implemented in four member countries of UEMOA (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal).
- 7.** The Regional Programme for Sustainable Land Management (PRGDT), with the support of the EU and in partnership with the FFEM and IDRC. The objective is to contribute to sustainable land management (SLM) and the capacity to adapt to climate change (CC) in ECOWAS AND CILSS member states with a view to achieving the MDGs.
- 8.** The Global Alliance for Climate Change (GACC), with the support of the EU, aimed at supporting ECOWAS and CILSS member countries in addressing climate change impacts, with a view to achieving the MDGs.
- 9.** The 'Feed the Future' Initiative (2011 - 2016), with the support of the USA. Its objective is to assist countries in West Africa to achieve the MDG 1, namely eradicating hunger and extreme poverty. Focused on agriculture, the environment, health, trade and investment, the programme also addresses cross-cutting issues such as adaptation to climatic variability, improved market access for farmers and traders, improved food and nutritional security, gender issues, capacity-building and partnership development.
- 10.** USAID Resilience Programmes (2013-2018). Cross-sectoral resilience programming to address the most vulnerable in a comprehensive manner that supports the AGIR objectives to be implemented in Burkina Faso and Niger.



ANNEX 2 INDICATOR TABLE

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE/PILLAR	PROCESS-PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT-IMPACT INDICATORS
Overall Objective: Structurally reduce, in a sustainable manner, food and nutritional vulnerability by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West African policies – ‘Zero Hunger’ in 20 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alignment of strategies, policies and programmes with the AGIR Resilience Results Framework; 2. Establishment of a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platform combining measures to enhance resilience, and of mechanisms/ frameworks for recording the results achieved by all AGIR stakeholders: financial mobilisation of states, institutions and partners in order to achieve the AGIR Results Framework; 3. Establishment of a methodological framework for taking into consideration and strengthening the role of women in food security and nutritional strategies and policies; 4. Significant increase in the share of public and private investment in structural responses to food and nutritional insecurity. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevalence of global chronic malnutrition less than 20%; 2. Decrease in the percentage of people structurally vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity; 3. Significant increase in the coverage of food and nutritional needs by regional agricultural production (level of regional food self-sufficiency); 4. Change in the Global Resilience Index of vulnerable households, families, communities.
Pillar 1: Improve social protection for the most vulnerable communities and households in order to secure their livelihoods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulation and implementation of programmes & appropriate safety net mechanisms (number of countries that have formulated and implemented coherent food and nutritional social safety net programmes); 2. Effective establishment and functionality of the Regional Food Reserve; 3. Number of rural municipalities or local structures with functional local mechanisms providing solidarity in addressing food crises. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations accessing basic social services (health, education, hygiene-water-sanitation); 2. Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations that have increased their incomes and been able to invest thanks to social transfers; 3. Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations with access to a balanced diet, especially during lean periods and price volatility; 4. Decrease in seasonal and inter-annual variations in the prevalence of overall acute malnutrition; 5. Reduction of at least 50% in the proportion of vulnerable populations in areas liable to major risks and shocks seeking food aid and humanitarian assistance.
Pillar 2: Strengthen the nutrition of vulnerable households	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulation and implementation of structural programmes for: i) access to nutrition and health services; ii) prevention and treatment of diseases with high morbidity, mortality; iii) reproductive health; 2. Formulation and implementation of specific programmes focused on infant and young child feeding; 3. Integration of nutritional issues in other sectoral development policies: i) nutritional objectives and outcomes clearly formulated in sectoral policies; ii) an established and appropriate institutional position on nutrition; 4. Introduction of legal and financial frameworks for the implementation of nutritional priority actions in the countries. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevalence of global chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years less than 20%; 2. Prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under 5 years less than 5% throughout the year; 3. Rate of child mortality less than 2 deaths per 10 000 children per day, and decrease in the prevalence of diseases with high morbidity and mortality; 4. Increase in the percentage of pregnant mothers and children up to 24 months (first 1 000 days of life) having a balanced diet; 5. Significant progress on spacing of births and increasing the age of first pregnancy.
Pillar 3: Sustainably improve agricultural and food productivity and the incomes of vulnerable households and improve their access to food	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significant increase in the volume of investment (in particular states’ own resources) for the implementation of NAIPs (especially the resilience priorities) and in particular the development of ecologically intensive and sustainable agriculture; 2. Formulation and effective implementation of economic diversification programmes, especially for women in structurally vulnerable areas; 3. Strengthening the institutional mechanisms of natural resources governance at local, national and regional levels; 4. Implementation of local, national and regional land security mechanisms in favour of family farms, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists, particularly women and young people; 5. Implementation of policy and financial frameworks for strengthening countries’ land governance; 6. Formulation and adoption of the Regional Land Charter; 7. Establishment of operational mechanisms for managing agricultural risk (functionality / effective reactivity of the platform for agricultural risk management) and climate-smart agriculture; 8. Adoption and implementation of legislation and financial frameworks to support local industry and trade: (i) fertiliser, (ii) processed food and nutritional products (fortified foods) from local agricultural commodities 9. Appropriate financing systems tailored to the needs and specificities of family agriculturalists, agro-pastoralists, pastoralists (micro-credit, insurance); 10. Formulation and adoption of regional instruments (in support of production and trade) to support strategic food chains for food and nutritional security (RAIP); 11. Appropriate research and extension systems /institutions giving family agriculturalists, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists enhanced access to agricultural services, in particular: i) environmentally and economically sustainable agriculture with a focus on the sustainable management of soil fertility and natural resources, ii) the resilience of production systems to climate risks and other disasters; 12. Policy and financial frameworks to strengthen the capacity of states to implement community rules on trade in agricultural and food products. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significant increase in incomes (from sustainable intensification of food and cash agricultural products and non-agricultural jobs) and purchasing power of vulnerable groups and their access to food; 2. Significant increase in the share of local agricultural products in the overall foods and other nutritional supplements value chains at local and regional levels; 3. Level of economic sustainability: sustainable increase in production and productivity of strategic food chains (cereals, meat, milk, etc.); intensity of input use; change in the number of assets in relation to the increase in land under cultivation. 4. Level of increase in production and availability of foods with high nutritional value; 5. Upward change in the consumption score and dietary diversity score in all countries; 6. Reduction in inter-, and intra-annual food prices <25%; 7. Level of environmental sustainability of agricultural production: index of soil degradation, energy intensity, rate of biodiversity, level of exploitation of water resources; 8. Level of social and institutional sustainability: change in the number of affiliated farmers’ organisations; level of social conflict over access to natural resources, including land.



ANNEX 2 INDICATOR TABLE (CONTINUED)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE/PILLAR	PROCESS-PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT-IMPACT INDICATORS
Pillar 4: Strengthen governance in food and nutritional security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A functional PREGEC and CH applied in accordance with the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management; 2. Formulation and implementation of programmes to strengthen community-based early-warning (SCAP), food security and disaster risk prevention mechanisms; 3. Operational local/community, national and regional-level mechanisms/frameworks for preventing and adapting to climate change and for disaster risk reduction (DRR); 4. Policy, legal and financial frameworks for the consideration of the role of women in food and nutritional security strategies and programmes; 5. Operational framework for external review of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management; 6. Establishment of an international platform for exchanges and co-ordination (under the political leadership of the regional organisations) within the RPCA; 7. Policy alignment with the Resilience Results Framework at national, regional and international levels; 8. Operational frameworks to capitalise on good practices and to support innovation and anticipation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority investment frameworks for the empowerment of women in food and nutritional security; 2. More effective targeting of structurally vulnerable populations and better prevention of food and nutritional crises; 3. Level of increase in capacity of countries and the region to anticipate and respond to climate change and disaster risk; 4. Level of compliance with food safety and nutritional standards at national and regional levels; 5. Programmatic frameworks favouring the inclusion of the 'population' variable in sectoral development policies.



An inclusive and permanent dialogue between stakeholders who share the same objective: building resilience of vulnerable populations in the Sahel and West Africa.



1. Participants of the 28th RPCA Annual Meeting;
2. Mamadou CISSOKHO ROPPA President of Honour, Representative of the Civil Society;
3. Launching Ceremony, 6 December 2012;
4. Beyon Luc Adolphe TIAO, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso and François-Xavier de DONNEA, SWAC President;
5. Simone ZOUNDI, FIAB President, Representative of the Private Sector;
6. Désiré Kadré OUÉDRAOGO, ECOWAS Commission President and Cheikhe Hadjibou SOUMARÉ, UEMOA Commission President;
7. Senior Experts' Group Meeting, Paris, 7-8 November 2012;
8. Djirmé ADOUM, former CILSS Co-ordinator Minister.

