

**Regional Roadmap
(Draft)
Original Version: French**

March 2013

CONTENTS

1. THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL VULNERABILITY IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA	3
<i>a) Geographic area</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>b) The root causes of food and nutritional vulnerability.....</i>	<i>3</i>
2. THE SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF RESILIENCE	6
3. OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL AGENDA FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY & INITIATIVES FOR RESILIENCE.....	7
4. AGIR: PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENCE-BUILDING IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA.....	10
<i>a) The approach.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>b) Target populations</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>c) Objectives/ Strategic Pillars.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>d) The added value of the Alliance.....</i>	<i>14</i>
5. AGIR DASHBOARD (KEY ORIENTATIONS).....	14
<i>a) Guiding principles</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>b) Priority interventions</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>c) Key indicators</i>	<i>19</i>
6. THE TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION	21
<i>a) Political governance.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>b) Technical management</i>	<i>21</i>
7. CO-ORDINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY	22

PREAMBLE

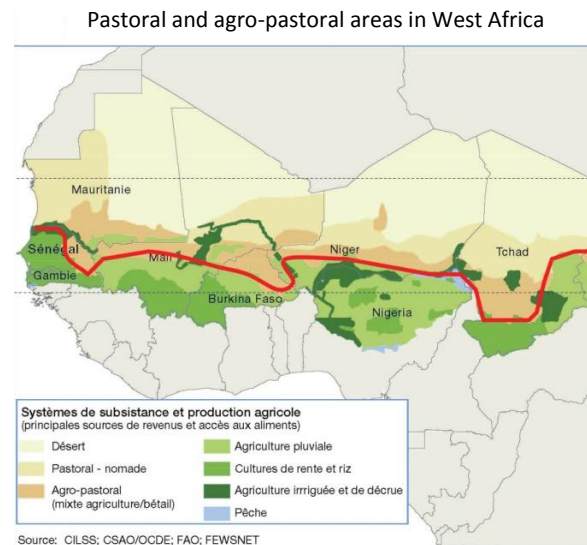
Within the framework of the 28th Annual Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), held on 6 December 2012 in Ouagadougou, food and nutritional security stakeholders (Sahelian and West African governments, inter-governmental organisations, bi-/multilateral technical and financial partners, UN agencies, agriculturalists 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 the **Regional Guidance Framework** to set forth the overall objectives of the Alliance. It will serve as the bases 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. THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL VULNERABILITY IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA

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 food and nutritional crises. The Sahel is defined as areas dominated by agro-pastoral and pastoral agricultural systems (see map). 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. Over the past decade, the Sahel has witnessed a series of more or less acute food and nutritional crises in 2005, 2010 and 2012, and many countries of 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 of the region, it regularly and structurally 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, about 40 to 45% of children under five in the Sahel lagged behind growth. This figure has not been changing 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 weakest and most vulnerable to shocks, West Africa in a larger sense constitutes an area of interdependencies and complementarities, on which the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS member countries must jointly act 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 the regional trade of agricultural and food products.

b) The root causes of food and nutritional vulnerability

4. The key factors of food vulnerability are multiple and complex

At local, national and regional levels, in the Sahel for example, the ecological fragility of this area – climatic shocks and other environmental disasters, such as repeated droughts, floods, locust threats and desertification – makes food production sporadic and unpredictable. Extreme poverty affects 20-30% of

¹ FAO (2006-2009 average).

the rural and urban populations. When suitable policies and measures regarding health, welfare and social security are insufficient, governance bottlenecks are present, the 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 considerable increase of 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 increasing food production is the result of the expansion of agricultural land area and the more wide-spread use of chemical fertilizers. This practice, however, has an adverse effect on soil fertility on the long run. The expansionary-extractive agricultural model is undermined by 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, who often respond 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, leading to decreased access to food available on the markets. Quite often, 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 basic social services (drinking water, healthcare, education – especially for girls, etc.). Moreover, social services are often unevenly distributed across regions and are poorly implemented, not meeting the needs of the population. 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. Health systems in the Sahel are inefficient and fragile. According to the WHO Efficiency Index, the Sahelian countries ranked between the 162nd and 178th positions, out of 191 countries. The completion rate of primary education is estimated at 55 to 65% in West Africa.²

7. The demographic transition has reached its downward phase throughout the region (see Figure 2). The coastal countries are further along this process than the Sahelian countries. 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. *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 next decades.* Public policies regarding reproductive health and family planning are therefore crucial.

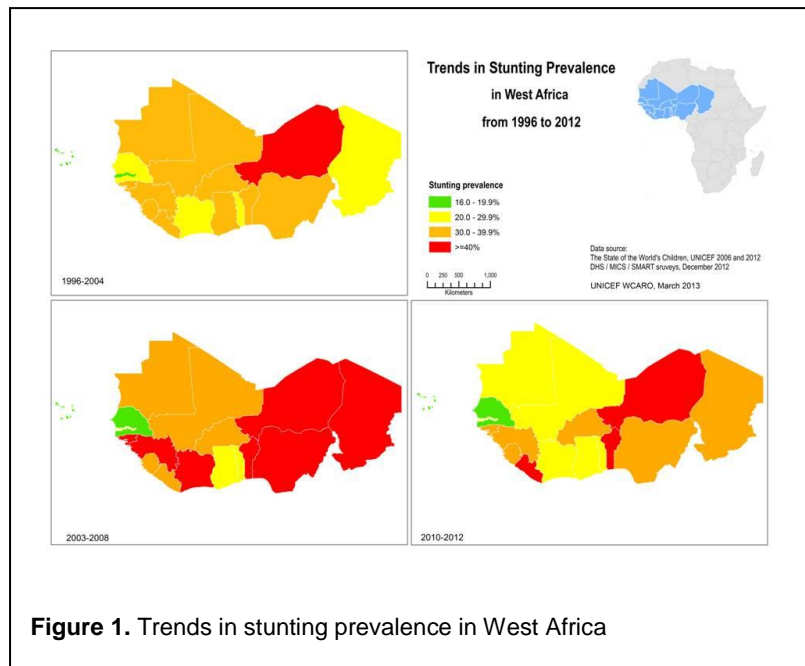
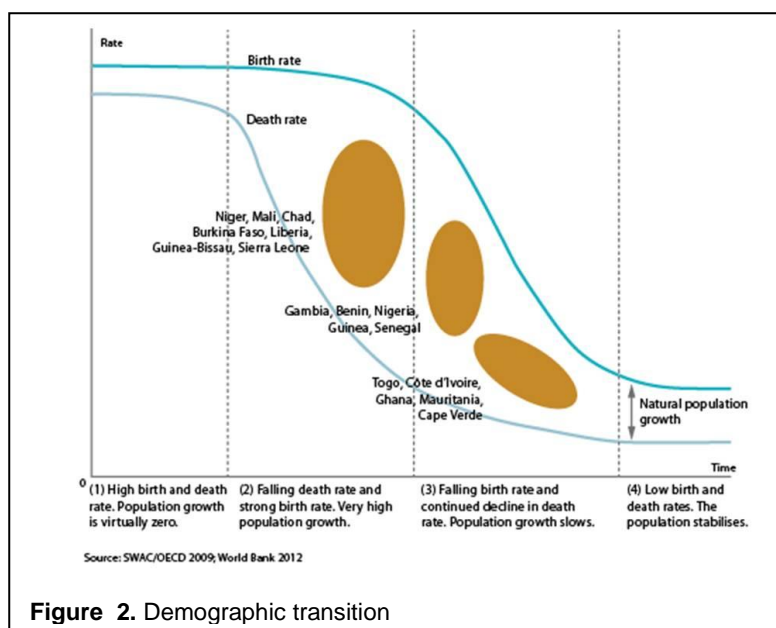


Figure 1. Trends in stunting prevalence in West Africa

² Database from UNESCO BREDA Pole in Dakar.



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 nutrition. Nonetheless, any delay in

the decline of fertility rates has serious consequences on the food and nutritional security of the generations to come.

8. The market has become the principle source of household food supply, accounting for 60 to 80% depending on the country. The difficulty of accessing and the malfunctioning of markets 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, and its actors merely to 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, harvest, 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, independent 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 surpass the stage of subsistence), or (iii) poor workers in other sectors (e.g. small artisans).

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 declines 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, urban population has increased by 20 per cent between 1950 and 2010; on the other, non-agricultural population has reached the number of agricultural population, and is growing faster. 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 10 regional agriculturalists to meet their own needs as well as the demand of one non-agricultural consumer; in 2010, one agriculturalist has to produce enough surplus to meet the need of one non-agricultural consumer.

By 2030, one agriculturalist will have a surplus to meet the demand of two non-agricultural consumers. This reflects the importance of income and the growing market of agricultural and food products.

Source: SWAC/OECD Secretariat (2012)

9. These vulnerable groups are particularly exposed to the double effect of intra-regional, endogenous volatility and imported or exogenous volatility of food prices. Endogenous volatility is generally related to climatic shocks affecting the food supply, and to high transaction costs strongly linked with the dysfunction of regional 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 those linking input supply centres with production and storage zones, etc.
- Large variation in the prices of factors of production, especially inputs, due to unfavourable exchange rates of local currencies coupled with rising oil prices (as seen in 2008).

Endogenous volatility is aggravated by international volatility, especially for 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 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 the deterioration of the social situation and health of these households. The direct result of this cycle is the irreversible erosion of livelihoods. Despite the fact that the Sahel has abundant food-producing areas (Maradi in Niger or Sikasso in Mali), high malnutrition rates persist. This paradoxical situation demonstrates well the lack of access to food. A significant share of these populations has become net consumers relying exclusively on the market. Their meagre income cannot provide for sufficient, diversified and balanced diet, and consequently they cannot develop good health and nutritional practices. These households generally have few economic opportunities 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 to 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, marketing food commodities, family food preparation and consumption, dietary habits, family and community health, and educating children. Yet, they often face persistent obstacles and economic and social constraints limiting their inclusion in decision-making in the field of agriculture, business and trade. For example, women lack autonomy and decision-making ability regarding agricultural production. Generally, they often lack control over the use of income, and are often over-burdened with the majority of household activities. This is added to the difficulties with 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 support 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 equitable participation of women at all levels of decision-making. These underlying, chronic structural constraints coupled with the more visible acute effects of climatic and environmental shocks, significantly undermine the food and nutrition security of women and children. Climate change is expected to increase the vulnerability of women-headed-households (WHH). Furthermore, the cumulative effects of long-term nutritional deficiencies and chronic malnutrition on productivity are worrisome. It is estimated that malnourishment decreases overall lifetime earnings by more than 10%.

2. THE SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF RESILIENCE

12. The AGIR – Sahel and West Africa initiative 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”*.

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 in a unified approach the acute and chronic causes of food and nutritional crises, while helping vulnerable households to increase their incomes, their access to infrastructure and basic services, and to create sustainable wealth by sustainably strengthening their livelihoods. This approach requires the concurrent implementation of long-term, structural programmes and short-term actions addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations without delay. 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 policies and strategies to promote sustainable food and nutritional security. 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; and iii) the Common Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAP), adopted in 2005. These policies and strategies converge on three priority areas of food and nutritional security: i) searching for sustainable structural solutions; ii) Implementing food and nutritional crisis prevention tools; and iii) preparing 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 the vulnerable populations' access to food. In some countries, the NAIPs are supplemented by social protection programmes, granting vulnerable populations access to basic social services, necessary for achieving sustainable food and nutritional security.
2. The NAIPs are complemented by the *Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP)*, which is formulated around 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 stocking Strategy, has been adopted, including provisions for the creation of a regional food reserve and for the implementation of market regulating/stimulating tools at the regional level. It 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). Furthermore, national nutrition policies, training materials and on-going programmes were adopted. 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 systems, vulnerability analyses, monitoring and early-warning*. The pillars of these information systems are: (i) the Regional System for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (PREGEC) including the **Harmonised Framework (HF)** for the identification and analysis of at-risk zone and vulnerable population, facilitated by CILSS, (ii) the UEMOA Regional Agricultural Information System (SIAR) and, (iii) the ECOWAS Agricultural Information System (ECOAGRIS), creating an umbrella-platform for existing agricultural information systems. Several priority projects are in the process of implementation.
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 Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Food (CCAA), and the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), created in 1984.

14. The regional agenda on food and nutrition 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 Humanitarian Policy;
- ECOWAS/WAHO Health Policy.

15. In 2012, ten countries of the Sahel and West Africa region have 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, and the 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 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:

1. A strategic feasibility framework to support the regional rice production programme;
2. A regional programme to support market regulation;
3. A regional programme to support agricultural and pastoral intensification;
4. A regional programme to support social safety nets.

This operational implementation framework is completed by the Regional Food Stocking Strategy, more particularly the feasibility study of the regional food reserve and the RESOGEST initiative..

17. Building on this regional agenda, many initiatives and programmes contributing more or less to resilience-building are underway (see non-exhaustive list in Annex 1). The Alliance must capitalise on and share-information on these various experiences. Such a mapping exercise requires the production of an analytical framework as a common analytical grid of current and future initiatives and their actual contribution to resilience. This methodological framework also supports country-level mapping studies, which shall feed into the inclusive dialogue process and thereby facilitate the formulation of national 'resilience' priorities. More generally, this need for analysis, monitoring and assessment of "**pro-resilience**" policies and programmes implies 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 should respond to the need of strengthening this regional governance for resilience.

18. However, the regional food security and nutrition 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 are: (i) livelihoods approaches and the prospects of vulnerable populations to move out of the poverty trap, (ii) issues of social protection and nutrition, (iii) the essential synergy between humanitarian and structural responses, and (iv) sustainable forms of agriculture that 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. Acting as an approach toward a "**Pro-Resilience**" agricultural policy, the "Zero Hunger" strategy aims to:

- a. Develop a legal ground to: (i) lift gradually and systematically the principle of the right to food into national constitutions, and to amend the ECOWAS treaty with the same provision, and (ii) to develop a legal framework for family farming;
- b. Place 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: (i) review strategies and policies on the basis of their impact 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 and assert the regional leadership.

The "Zero Hunger" strategy is therefore based on what exists but aims to tailor them for better efficiency in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Additionally, it aims to develop new initiatives based on the identified gaps.

4. AGIR: PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENCE-BUILDING IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA

a) The approach

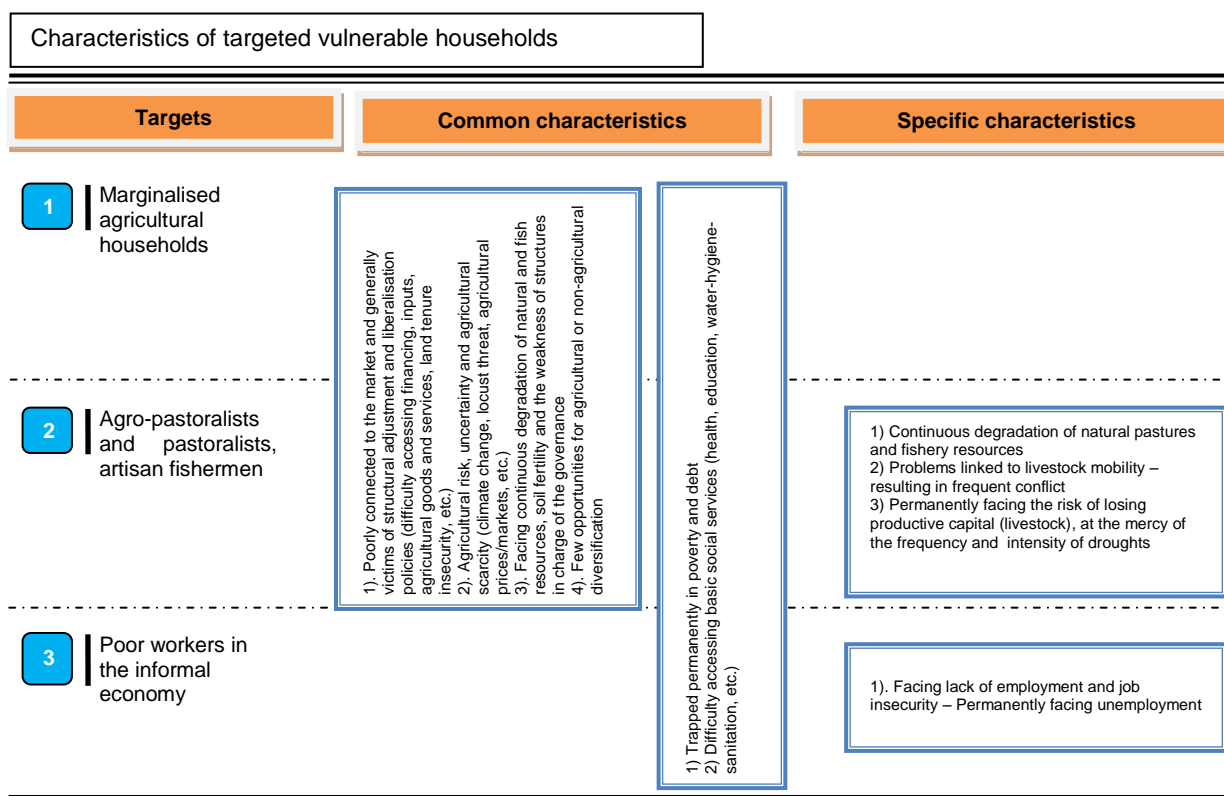
19. During the high-level consultation on 18 June 2012, stakeholders decided to join efforts in launching a global partnership for resilience. They have committed to work together to support and accelerate the implementation of the West African regional agenda of food and nutritional security. AGIR proposes 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 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 West African region (15 ECOWAS member states, plus Chad and Mauritania). This is particularly the case for some cross-cutting priorities; for example, supporting the implementation of the Harmonised Framework (HF) to identify and analyse 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 security reserve; strengthening governance in the areas of social protection, conflict prevention and management, and the use of natural resources, etc.

At the local and national levels, the present regional roadmap constitutes a reference framework that will be adapted to country-specific contexts, respecting the orientations and principles of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management adopted by the Ministers in charge of agriculture and food on 17 November 2011 in Conakry (Guinea).

b) Target populations

20. The shared understanding of resilience, defined in point twelve (12) above applies to the target populations who, under the effects of complex, intertwined factors acting on the micro and macro levels, are facing a permanent state of food and nutritional insecurity. In 2012, the crisis has affected 6 million people living in severely food insecure conditions. The following household groups are particularly vulnerable:

1. **Small-scale agricultural households** most often physically distant from or poorly connected to markets (due to lack of transport infrastructure). This marginalised segment also faces a situation of insecure land tenure, degraded resources (land, pastures and water), and has little capital to invest in their production system. In most cases, these agricultural households do not produce enough to feed themselves (often barely 40% of their needs) and have few opportunities for income generation.
2. **Agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households** whose capital stock is continually threatened by recurring weather hazards. They lack access to food and have few opportunities for diversification and income generation. Artisan fishers facing the continuous degradation of fisheries are also part of this group.
3. **Poor workers in the agricultural- or non-agricultural informal sector, both in the rural and urban areas.** This group is in large part composed of younger generations, facing unemployment 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 particularly those under the age of two, pregnant women and nursing mothers, as well as women-headed-households (WHH)*. Each year, several thousand children in these households die due to malnutrition-related causes³.

c) Objectives/ Strategic Pillars

21. 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 to be able to resist future shocks.

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

1. SO1. Restore, strengthen and secure livelihoods, and improve social protection for the most vulnerable households and communities

Social safety nets are considered to be relatively new tools in the region. They are sparsely implemented and often with support from development partners. For example, the *'Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty' Initiative in Ghana* (still in the exploratory phase), provides opportunities for sharing experiences with other countries in the region. The major challenges of implementing such instruments include: (i) institutionalisation and sustainable funding-raising mechanism the implementation, (ii) linking social safety nets to other components of the social protection system and supporting livelihoods, and (iii) implementing targeting mechanisms that are accepted by all stakeholders, including policy makers.

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

Targeted interventions for achieving this objective are primarily based on the support to countries to develop and implement sustainable national programmes - as defined in the regional programme in support to national social safety nets (see specific objective No.3 of RAIP: *“Reducing food insecurity and promoting sustainable access to food”*). Priority actions include:

- a. Social protection: Developing and implementing national social protection policies and programmes; strengthening of state capacity to provide high quality social services, etc.
- b. Food reserves (at community, national and regional levels), and local solidarity mechanisms to deal with food and nutritional crises;

2. SO2. Strengthen nutrition of vulnerable households

This pillar pays particular attention to pregnant and lactating women and children up to 2 years (the window of opportunity offered by the “1 000 days”). It is equally in line with the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, targeting pregnant and lactating women and children up to two years of age. Several countries in the region have already adhered to the campaign, including Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone.). The priority actions are:

Stronger taking into account nutritional problems in specific sectoral policy frameworks (agriculture, education, health, social protection, water-hygiene-sanitation): *Stronger institutional position of nutrition within national governments.*

- a. Preventing and treating diseases with high morbidity and mortality: malaria, diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, etc.
- b. Addressing reproductive health issues: *birth spacing, delaying the age of first pregnancy, etc.*
- c. Developing infants and young children feeding programmes: access to age-appropriate quality food, breastfeeding, vitamin A supplementation, introduction of complementary foods;
- d. Improving and promoting good hygiene, health care, and nutritional practices: providing sanitation and hygiene services, fighting against enteropathies (with focus on behaviour and social norms), and stimulating young children.
- e. Strengthening the access to health and nutritional services: prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, access to nutritional counselling, education of mothers and pregnant women, screenings, etc.

3. SO3. Sustainably strengthen agricultural and food production productivity and incomes of vulnerable households and improve their access to food

Targeted interventions 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 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 structures of territory management);

- c. Sustainable management of natural resources, particularly water, soil, and vegetation (including natural pastures), through the improvement of social dialogue and strengthening of natural resource governance structures from the local to the regional levels. A special emphasis should be placed on land issues which are at the centre of concerns.
- d. Agricultural and non-agricultural diversification; employment and other income-generating activities in rural and urban areas (particularly food processing); targeted investment to vulnerable households in the informal sector: *increase incomes and promote 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 private 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), developing protection measures/tools to mitigate the impact of price volatility on the most vulnerable populations, etc.*

4. SO4. Strengthen governance in food and nutrition security

Interventions 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 Harmonised Framework (HF), SIAR, ECOAGRIS, local early-warning mechanisms, etc.;*
- b. Strengthening capacities of States, IGOs, CSOs, private sector, etc. in the area of governance: *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): *a strengthened RPCA, application of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, lobbying / policy advocacy, etc.;*
- d. Improving governance in the areas of:
 - Population and development strategies;
 - Gender and food/nutritional security;
 - Nutrition: institutional visibility and positioning, the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) programme;
 - Prevention and management of conflicts related to the use of natural resources;
 - Rural code, land tenure rights, rural labour code;
 - Integrated approaches for food security/nutrition/water access/sanitation.
- e. Strengthening climate change adaptation and capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at the national and regional level
- f. Research-action and knowledge sharing through innovative 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.*

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

d) The added value of the Alliance

24. Building on the "Zero Hunger" target, one of the Alliance's core approach is to converge the efforts of regional and international stakeholders towards a common results framework for strengthening resilience among the most vulnerable populations. To this end, the Alliance aims to fill the current gaps of the regional food security and nutritional agenda (see section 3). Its added value lies in supporting regional leadership and governance in food security and nutrition, with the purpose of improving the effectiveness of collective action toward resilience (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 and governance framework of food security and nutrition, primarily targeting the structurally most vulnerable populations;
 - Promoting inter-sectoral co-ordination;
 - Offering advocacy, lobbying and supervision for the political and financial commitments in the long run. It engages and unites efforts for long-term structural investments.
- 2) Aligning individual and collective actions within the 'Resilience results framework'
 - Offering 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 commitments 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 (KEY ORIENTATIONS)

a) Guiding principles

25. The Alliance is based on the following principles:

- i. A common understanding by the initiative 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." In terms of intervention, this means to "advance the thinking and understanding of root causes of the chronic nature of food and nutritional insecurity – and to develop intervention approaches that improve synergy between short-term responses to acute food crises (emergency/humanitarian) and structural ones (development) addressing chronic crises."
- ii. Support to the implementation and to the strengthening of resilience-related elements of the Sahelian and West African policies for agricultural investment, food and nutrition security, health, education, social protection, market development, etc. This approach conforms to the principle of aligning interventions with the priorities of the countries and organisations of the region, in line with the Paris Declaration. In order to firmly entrench its impact, the Alliance aims to strengthen food and nutritional security governance at community/local, national and regional levels.

- iii. Priority interventions will be targeted towards the vulnerable populations most at risk to recurrent shocks, especially poor and marginalised agricultural households, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in ecologically fragile areas, artisanal fishermen and poor urban and rural households in the informal economy. The actions of AGIR will be rooted in an approach aimed at *"assisting these priority target 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"*.
- iv. Inter-sectoral co-ordination, and the principle of subsidiarity, with regard to different levels of intervention (between the local/community, national and regional levels), and different categories of intervention, on the basis of a clear definition of roles and responsibilities.

b) Priority interventions

26. The following priority interventions constitute the **Regional Guidance Framework of the Alliance**. These are to be adapted to national contexts within the relevant national policies and plans, in order to facilitate 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: Restore, strengthen and secure livelihoods & improve social protection for the most vulnerable communities and household

		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	(i) Preservation of livelihoods (productive capital), (ii) increased revenues and restore food access capacity, (iii) Increased capacity of the States to provide high quality social services (health, education, hygiene-water-sanitation).	The implementation of strategic policy frameworks for social protection and provisions for basic social services (health, education, water-hygiene-sanitation, etc.)	(i) Improved coherence between social protection policies and food and nutritional security policies; (ii) social protection interventions are better coordinated and linked to resilience strengthening
		The implementation of national programmes strengthening local food storage capacities and local solidarity mechanisms to deal with food and nutrition crises	(i) Increased access to food including livestock feed, (ii) Stronger protection for those most vulnerable to price volatility		
National & Regional		The Implementation of RESOGEST and the regional food security reserve	(i) Strengthened capacity of countries to respond to food and nutritional crises, (ii) increased food production		

Pillar 2: Strengthen nutrition of vulnerable households

		Immediate and short-term		Medium- and long-term	
		Interventions	Results	Interventions	Results
Local & National		Implement structural programmes: (i) Strengthening Prevention-Treatment of diseases with high morbidity and mortality, (ii) Reproductive Health	(i). Significant decrease in the incidence of diseases of high morbidity and mortality of children (malaria, diarrhea), (ii) Reducing overall infant mortality	Implement structural programmes of access to health and nutritional community-based health, hygiene -water-sanitation (HWS), family planning, nutrition education,	Social and economic capacities for improved diet and nutrition; (ii) Malnutrition rates lowered to below 10%; (iii) Reduced infant mortality rates linked to illness (malaria, etc.) and malnutrition
		Implementation of programmes focused on feeding of infants and young children: quality food, breastfeeding, vitamin supplements, etc.	(i) Significant reduction of acute and chronic malnutrition of children, (ii) significant decrease in infant mortality		
		Improvement and promotion of good child care and feeding practices: service offering hygiene and sanitation, stimulation of young children, etc.	(i). Strengthened technical, social, economic and cultural capacities for the application of good health practices and use of healthy and nutritious food	Strengthening the governance of nutrition: reinforcement of institutional positioning of nutrition within the national governance frameworks	Nutritional issues taken into account in sectoral policies

Pillar 3: Sustainably strengthen agricultural and food productivity and incomes of vulnerable households and improve 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, agric. risk management tools, markets, infrastructure, production, post-harvest/storage, and processing equipment, etc.) targeted to: (i) marginalised family farms, (ii) women and youth	(i) Increased and more diversified incomes (ii) strengthened livelihoods (ii) Strengthened role of women in food economy and in the prevention of food crises	The 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 income 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 and soil conservation, and vegetation (including forests and pastures) targeted to: (i) marginalised family farms, (ii) women-headed households (WHH)	(i) Increased adaptive capacity of marginalized farms and WHH to mitigate and respond to environmental and climatic stress (ii) Reduced vulnerability to food and nutritional crises		
National & Regional		The Implementation of an investment programme targeting pastoralism: economy (incomes), access to basic social services (health, education, WASH, etc.), zootechnical and veterinary services, land, pastoral hydraulics, etc.	(i) Strengthened pastoral economy; (ii) Reduced vulnerability of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to food and nutritional crises; (iii) Reduced risk of conflict and improved security in the Sahelo-Saharan belt	Market strengthening and promotion of value chains: Marketing infrastructure; Support to agro-food processing and distribution sector; Standardisation/quality, etc.	(i). Improved access to food among the most vulnerable groups; (ii) Increased incomes among agricultural producers
		The Implementation of regional policies for free movement of goods and services and for good trade practices favourable to the protection of vulnerable groups against price volatility	(i). Dynamic local and national markets; (ii) Increased access to food among the most vulnerable		
		The Implementation of structural programmes for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) 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 upgraded		
Regional		The Implementation of regional initiatives to promote strategic agricultural products (rice, meat, milk, etc.) [Trade, production and market infrastructure, etc.]	(i). Business environment (political, commercial, etc.) favourable to investment 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 environment favourable to sustainable investments in agriculture

Pillar 4: Strengthening governance for 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/ consultation mechanism) and to community early warning mechanisms	(i). Early-warning and preparedness capabilities for food and nutritional crisis management strengthened at all levels	Strengthening governance in Demographics/Development : Support to countries in the 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
		The implementation of the Enhanced Harmonised Framework (EHF)	(i). Better targeting of vulnerable persons (ii) Improved/better targeted choice of instruments for crisis response; (iii) Vulnerability of Pastoralists better taken into account		
National & Regional		Strengthening of the resilience dimension of policies and strategies	(i) The resilience dimension of policies and strategies is strengthened	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
		The implementation of local, national and regional strategies for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR)	(i). Strengthened national and regional capacities in disaster prevention and management; (ii) Greater disaster protection for the most vulnerable		
		The implementation of Research- Action and Anticipation: Promotion of Best Practices in Food and Nutrition Security (FNS)	(i). Accelerated dissemination of best practices in FNS; (ii) Enhanced effectiveness of FNS policies	The implementation of the "Zero Hunger" initiative	(i). Strengthened policy, institutional and legal frameworks for the promotion of the right to food
		The implementation of the strengthening of governance in the prevention and management of conflicts related to the use of natural resources	(i). Reduced agricultural vulnerability related to climate change; (ii) Increased production and food supply stability		
		Capacity building for the promotion of the "gender and food and nutritional security"	(i). Strengthened gender dimension in FNS strategies and policies; (ii) Nutritional issues taken into account in sectoral policies		
		The implementation of the RPCA and the application of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, capacity-building of civil society, etc.)	(i). Enhanced co-ordination and effectiveness of interventions; (ii) Improved effectiveness of strategies and policies for food and nutritional security		
Regional					

LEGEND:






















High priority in the Sahelian belt



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 Restore, and secure livelihoods & improve social protection for the most vulnerable communities and household		
2 Strengthen nutrition of vulnerable households		
3 Sustainably strengthen agricultural and food productivity and incomes of vulnerable households, and improve their access to food	  	   
4 Strengthening governance for food and nutritional security	  	    
	RAIP / ECOWAP Mobilising Programmes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting strategic food products for food security and sovereignty Promoting an enabling global environment for regional agricultural development Reducing food vulnerability and promoting sustainable access to food 	CAADP / NEPAD Pillars: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Land and water management Market access Food supply and hunger reduction Agricultural research Integration of livestock, forestry and fishery

c) Key indicators

27. Annex 2 presents some key performance and impact indicators. Table 1 below summarises the 'Results Framework' in line with the aims of the Alliance.

Table 1. Results Framework

	Indicators (Impact)	Verifiable evidence	Assumptions and risks
Overall Objective: <i>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</i>	Prevalence of global chronic malnutrition less than 20%	National policies and programmes on resilience with operational funding mechanisms	Failure in the coordination of the international community partners at different levels (national, regional, international)
	Decrease in the percentage of people structurally vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity	RPCA renovated acting as an international platform for coordination and decision-making on resilience	Failure of coordination within regional organizations (IGOs), among them, and between different sectoral departments at country level
	Significant increase in the coverage of food and nutritional needs by regional agricultural production (level of regional food self-sufficiency)	Operational frameworks of inter-sectoral coordination, dialogue, monitoring and mobilization political and financial commitments to resilience	Weak political and financial commitment of the States
	Change in the Global Resilience Index of vulnerable households, families, communities		Poor alignment of national and regional policies and countries on the result table of AGIR 'Resilience'
Specific Objective 1: <i>to restore, strengthen and secure livelihoods & improve social protection for the most vulnerable communities and household</i>	Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations accessing basic social services (health, education, hygiene-water-sanitation)	National food security and nutrition safety nets strategies and programmes with operational funding frameworks	Lack of political will and financial resources mobilization (main resources and external) of the States and their IGOs
	Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations that have increased their income and being able to invest through the social transfers	Physical and financial components of the regional food security reserve	Governance mechanisms not ensuring transparency and promoting citizen participation and favoring poor targeting and exclusion errors
	Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations with access to a balanced diet, especially during lean periods and price volatility	Local/community-based solidarity plans to address food crisis and disasters prevention with operational funding mechanisms	Insufficient local governance at the country level
	Decrease in seasonal and inter-annual variation in the prevalence of overall acute malnutrition		
	Reduction of at least 50% of the number of vulnerable populations from major risks and shocks areas seeking food aid and humanitarian assistance		
Specific Objective 2: <i>to strengthen nutrition of vulnerable households</i>	Prevalence of global chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years less than 20%	National policies and development programmes incorporating nutrition issues with operational funding frameworks	Lack of political and financial commitment to the institutionalization of nutrition and population issues in development strategies
	Prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under 5 years less than 5% throughout the year	Structural programmes on nutrition, reproductive health, reduction of diseases with high morbidity and mortality, with funding framework for the structurally vulnerable areas (rural and urban) in the countries	
	Rate of child mortality less than 2 deaths per 10,000 children per day, and decrease of the prevalence of diseases of high morbidity and mortality		
	Increase in the percentage of pregnant women and children up to 24 months (first 1000 days of life) having a balanced diet		
	Significant progress on spacing of births and increasing the age of first pregnancy		
Specific Objective 3: <i>to sustainably strengthen agricultural and food productivity and incomes of vulnerable households and improve their access to food</i>	Significant increase in incomes (from sustainable intensification of food and cash agricultural products and non-agricultural employments) and purchasing power of vulnerable groups and their access to food	Consolidated national budgets for the NIPA with resilience priorities	Weak capacity of States and their IGOs in the mobilization of financial resources
	Significant increase in the share of local agricultural products in the total of foods and other nutritional supplements value chains at local and regional levels	National frameworks for environmentally sustainable agricultural investment in strategic food systems and food processing (business environment, funding, infrastructure, taxation ...)	Insufficient political will of States and their IGOs for structural investments in nourishing agriculture, trade and economic diversification opportunities, in particular for women
	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 evolution of cultivated surfaces.	National platforms for agricultural risk management	
	Level of the increase of production and availability of food with high nutritional value	Land Charter regional and national mechanisms to secure land tenure for family agriculturalists, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists	
	Upward change of the consumption score and dietary diversity score in all countries	Regional support instruments (production and trade) for strategic food products	
	Reduction of the 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: evolution of the number of affiliated peasant organizations; level of social conflict for access to natural resources including land		

	Indicators (Impact)	Verifiable evidence	Assumptions and risks
Specific Objective 4: <i>to strengthen the governance for food and nutritional security</i>	<p>Priority investment frameworks for the empowerment of women in food and nutrition security</p> <p>Increase the effectiveness of targeting structurally vulnerable populations and the prevention of food and nutritional crises</p> <p>Level of increase in the countries and the region ability to anticipate and respond to climate change and disaster risk</p> <p>Level of compliance with food safety and nutritional standards at national and regional levels</p> <p>Programmatic frameworks favouring the inclusion of the variable 'population' in sectoral development policies</p>	<p>Policies & programmes integrating the dimension of 'resilience'</p> <p>Sectoral policies, in particular food security and nutrition including the variable 'population'</p> <p>Operational framework for external review of the Charter for food crisis the prevention and management</p> <p>Renovated RPCA PREGEC and 'CHB'</p> <p>Local, national and regional early warning, adaptation to change and DRR Institutions & mechanisms</p> <p>Operational political and financial frameworks promoting the role of women in food security and nutrition</p> <p>National R & E systems and sustainable funding mechanisms</p>	<p>Political instability in the countries and lack of continuity in the political and financial commitment to reforms</p> <p>Insufficient alignment and support of the international community</p>

6. THE TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION

28. The implementation of AGIR builds on existing West African mechanisms of technical and political leadership with a view to strengthening the regional organisations.

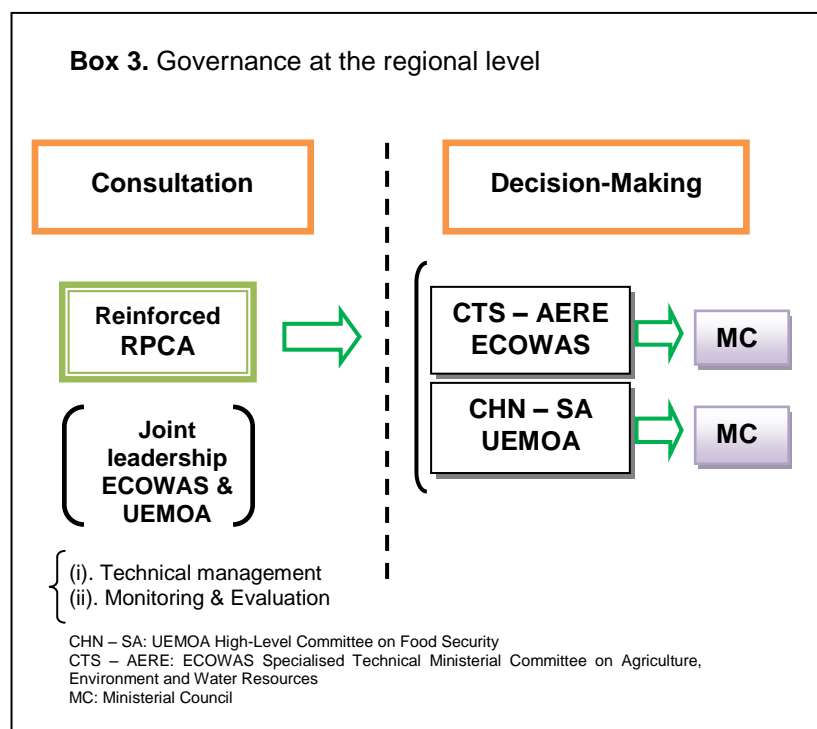
a) Political governance

29. Anchored on West African leadership, AGIR is placed under the joint political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA, promoting subsidiarity in the interest of efficiency; with UEMOA assuring co-ordination of actions at the level of its eight member states and ECOWAS overseeing overall co-ordination. The two organisations are committed to take full advantage of and strengthen the role of CILSS, which serves as a technical agency for 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 main bodies of political decision-making within the Alliance. The platform of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) through the RPCA will be the common space for dialogue, debate, lobbying and advocacy for the Alliance on the international stage.

b) Technical management

30. At the regional level, the Alliance relies on the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), of which ECOWAS and UEMOA provide joint political leadership. A shared space for dialogue, the RPCA is the framework for consultation and monitoring and evaluation of the Alliance. Proposals and



recommendations formulated by the RPCA are subject to the decision-making bodies of ECOWAS and UEMOA. The RPCA holds two meetings per year: one in April and one in December. A special session will be dedicated at each of these meetings for discussions on the Alliance.

At the operational level, a small Technical Unit, hosted within the CILSS and under the leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA, is in charge of supporting and facilitating the implementation of the regional roadmap. More specifically, its mission involves the following tasks: (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 actions and sharing of lessons learned and experiences; and (v) co-ordinating (in collaboration with the SWAC Secretariat) the organisation of the monitoring and orientation meetings of the Alliance.

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 active in the field of food and nutritional security (including health, education, etc.) as well as all other stakeholders, agriculturalists, agro-pastoralists, pastoralists, civil society, the private sector, technical and financial partners, etc. will serve as part of the framework for dialogue, guidance, co-ordination and monitoring of the implementation of interventions for resilience.

At the decentralised level, regional structures and local mechanisms (regional councils, local governments, etc.) will serve as platforms for dialogue as well as for programming and monitoring the implementation of the resilience priorities.

31. At all levels, a "specific space" of expression will be dedicated to agricultural producers' and breeders organisations, civil society and the private sector, allowing them to: i) strengthen their dialogue and organisational capacity; ii) consult their respective bases and develop/assert a common position on strategic choices. Similarly, other platforms of dialogue/consultation implemented by sectoral resilience-building policies and strategies (health, education, demographics and development, social questions, etc.) will be equally valued. This inclusive approach contributes to an improved inter-sectoral co-operation and promotes coherence between resilience initiatives and policies.

7. CO-ORDINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY⁴

32. 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 stakeholders in the international community have agreed on the following principles:

- At the global level, the technical and financial partners of the Alliance will establish a co-ordinating mechanism that will ensure: i) support/maintain the political commitment of 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 common positions for technical and financial partners.
- At the country level, co-ordinating mechanisms will be established based on already existing mechanisms of the technical and financial partners of the Alliance. This will facilitate the political engagement and co-ordination of interventions in close liaison with the national structures in charge of food and nutrition security. The focal points of these national co-ordinating mechanisms will report on their actions and participate in specific sessions dedicated to the Alliance during the RPCA meetings.

⁴ The following proposal was not subject to discussion during the 7-8 November Experts Group meeting. Based on concerns expressed by some stakeholders, it is described here as a working hypothesis to be confirmed by the consultation of the international technical and financial partners' consultation to take place on 9 April, 2013

Annex 1: Some initiatives and programmes contributing to resilience-building

Box 4. Some regional initiatives and programmes contributing to the resilience

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), built on the achievements of the regional operational strategy of CILSS (SOSAR), is supported by the EU. It aims at strengthening the link between information and decision-making to improve 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 productivity and of fisheries in a context of climate change in the Sahel. Building on the priorities of the NAIPs and the RAIP, the programme aims to increase investments 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 of 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, with the support of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) covering 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 a co-operation between the BOAD and KfW, a funding mechanism for 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, 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 Niger and Burkina Faso.

Annex 2. Indicators table

Specific objective / Pillar	Process-performance Indicators	Result-impact Indicators
<p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Alignment of strategies, policies and programmes with the result framework of AGIR ‘Resilience’ 2). Establishment of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral uniting efforts around resilience and mechanisms / frameworks for computability of results for all AGIR stakeholders: Financial mobilization of States, institutions and partners to achieve the AGIR results framework 3). Establishment of a methodological framework for consideration and strengthening the role of women in food security and nutrition strategies and policies 4). Significant increase in the share of public and private investments in structural responses to food and nutrition 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 nutrition 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
<p>Pillar 1: Restore, strengthen and secure livelihoods & improve social protection for the most vulnerable communities and household</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Formulation and implementation of programmes & appropriate safety nets mechanisms (number of countries that have formulated and implemented coherent social safety programmes of nets for Food and Nutrition) 2). Effective establishment and functionality of the regional food security reserve 3). Number of rural municipalities or local structures with functional local mechanisms of solidarity to address food crises 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable population s accessing basic social services (health, education, hygiene-water-sanitation) 2). Significant increase in the proportion of vulnerable populations capable of increasing their income and being able to invest through the 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 variation in the prevalence of overall acute malnutrition 5). Reduction of at least 50% of the number of vulnerable populations from major risks and shocks areas seeking food aid and humanitarian assistance
<p>Pillar 2: Strengthen nutrition of vulnerable households</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Formulation and implementation of structural programmes for the: (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 nutrition issues in other sectoral development policies: (i) the objectives and nutritional outcomes clearly formulated in sectoral policies, (ii) an institutional position of ‘Nutrition’ adequately established. 4). Establishing legal and financial frameworks for the implementation of nutrition 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 of the prevalence of diseases of high morbidity and mortality 4). Increase in the percentage of pregnant mothers and children up to 24 months (first 1000 days of life) having a balanced diet 5). Significant progress on spacing of births and increasing the age of first pregnancy
<p>Pillar 3: Sustainably strengthen agricultural and food productivity and incomes of vulnerable households and improve their access to food</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Significant increase in the volume of investments (in particular States’ own resources) for the implementation of NAIP (especially the priorities ‘Resilience’) and in particular the development of agriculture ecologically intensive and sustainable 2). Formulation and effective implementation of economic diversification programmes, especially for women in structurally vulnerable areas 3). Strengthening institutional mechanisms of governance of natural resources at local, national and regional levels 4). Implementation of local, national and regional land security mechanisms in favor of family farms, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists, particularly women and youth. 5). Implementation of policy and financial frameworks to strengthen countries’ land governance 6). Formulation and adoption of the regional land Charter 7). Establishment of operational mechanisms of agricultural risk management (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) fertilizer, (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 nutrition security (RAIP) 11). Appropriate Systems / Institution of Research and Extension for enhanced access of family agriculturalists, agro-pastoralists, pastoralists agricultural 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 the implement community rules on free trade of 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 employments) and purchasing power of vulnerable groups and their access to food 2). Significant increase in the share of local agricultural products in the total of foods and other nutritional supplements value chains at local and regional levels 3). Increase in the level production and availability of food with high nutritional value 4). Upward change of the consumption score and dietary diversity score in all countries 5). Reduction of the inter, and intra-annual food prices <25% 6). Level of environmental sustainability of agricultural production: index of soil degradation, energy intensity, rate of biodiversity, level of exploitation of water resources). 7). 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 evolution of cultivated surfaces. 8). Level of social and institutional sustainability: evolution of the number of affiliated peasant organizations; level of social conflict for access to natural resources including land
<p>Pillar 4: Strengthening governance for food and nutritional security</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). A functional ‘PREGEC’ and a Framework for food and nutrition vulnerability (CH) applied in accordance with the Charter for food crises prevention and management 2). Formulation and implementation of programmes to strengthen community-based food security early warning and the prevention of disasters risks mechanisms (SCAP) 3). Operational Mechanisms- frameworks at local / community, national and regional levels for prevention, adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) 4). Policy, legal and financial frameworks for the consideration of the role of women in strategies and programmes for food security and nutrition 5). Operational framework for external review of the Charter for food crisis prevention and management 6). Establishment of an international platform for exchange and coordination (under the political leadership of the regional organizations) within the RPCA 7). Policy alignment with the results framework of the ‘Resilience’ at national, regional and international levels 8). Operational frameworks to capitalize good practices and to support innovation & anticipation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Priority Investment frameworks for the empowerment of women in food and nutrition security 2). Increase the effectiveness of targeting structurally vulnerable populations and the prevention of food and nutritional crises 3). Level of increase in the countries and the region ability 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 favoring the inclusion of the variable ‘population’ in sectoral development policies