



# Second roundtable on resilience: partnerships for resilience

## Information note

31 January 2023

### Background

Resilience activities are a critical element towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustaining Peace Agenda. They support people's well-being in the face of multifaceted threats and are a priority in development and humanitarian programming, especially in a global context of increased frequency and intensity of shocks and stressors and occurrence of protracted crises. In these contexts, resilience building helps address often structural vulnerabilities that make people susceptible to the impacts of shocks and stressors. WFP's 2015 Resilience Policy defines resilience<sup>1</sup> and sets the boundaries within which WFP intervenes in resilience building spanning three Strategic Plans (2014–2017; 2017–2022; 2022–2025). Recognizing that food security and nutrition challenges are complex and multi-dimensional, the Resilience Policy points to growing consensus that resilience interventions should be multi-level and systems-based, multisector, multistakeholder and context-specific, adopting these elements within the policy.

This Roundtable follows on from the Resilience Roundtable of July 2022. During these discussions, the question of how WFP works with other partners based on comparative advantage, with a view to ensuring national ownership and long-term sustainability has come up repeatedly. While WFP never works alone for its resilience programme, this may have not always been communicated systematically or properly.

This roundtable seeks to illustrate how WFP systematically works with host governments, UN agencies and other development partners to contribute to resilience building. It will also explore how these partnerships take place at various levels and with a multitude of partners, based on specific contexts, government priorities, geographical, presence, technical expertise, and mandates.

### Partnerships with governments

Most governments and national authorities are WFP's principal partner for resilience building. At the design stage, programmes are developed in consultation with and endorsed by the host government, including key line ministries such as Planning and Economic Development or other as appropriate, and technical line ministries for respective areas of programming. This partnership extends to implementation and/or monitoring phases with national authorities, whether at central, regional and/or local level.

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<sup>1</sup> The WFP resilience policy (2015) defines resilience as: *"the capacity to ensure that shocks and stressors do not have long-lasting adverse development consequences"*

National authorities ensure sustainability and ownership in the longer term and in most cases also provide a specific technical expertise directly contributing to the programmes' objectives. Government partners for resilience span a wide array of ministries and government bodies – they generally include the ministries of agriculture, water resources, health, education forestry, environment, rural rehabilitation, humanitarian action and disaster management, climate change, labour and social affairs, etc. These partnerships play out at national and subnational levels, for example with local authorities and agricultural extension workers.

For instance, in Malawi, WFP leads resilience interventions (UNCT Results Group) that leverage several partnerships (primarily with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; the Ministry of Agriculture; the Department of Disaster Management Affairs; the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; the Ministry of Health; and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change) in an integrated approach that has proven to be effective in increasing food and nutrition security of target populations. In Niger, WFP has been supporting the Government's '*Nigériens Nourishing Nigériens (3N Initiative)*', since its inception in 2012. This large-scale, cross-sectoral initiative aims to increase livestock, agricultural and forest productivity, while augmenting the resilience of farmers and herders to climate shocks and other stressors.

### **Partnership with UN agencies**

Resilience programmes are typically implemented in partnership with other UN agencies. This allows for complementarity of technical capacities, expertise, country presence and mandates, required to tackle the complexity of national food insecurity and malnutrition in any context. An internal stocktaking of UN partnerships in resilience programmes, based on the review of Annual Country Reports from 2019 to 2021 in 34 countries, shows that no resilience programme is implemented by WFP alone.

WFP's resilience programmes fall under countries' overarching United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF), which brings together host government and partners to provide coherent and effective support to countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The UNSCDF further guides the UN system in planning and implementing resilience and development activities at country level.

The Rome Based Agencies are WFP's main UN partners for joint resilience programmes under the UNSCDF. In 2015, WFP, FAO and IFAD signed a Conceptual Framework for Collaboration and Partnership on Strengthening Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition, which guided the elaboration of WFP's 2015 Resilience Policy and continues to provide the broader intervention framework to the three agencies' resilience interventions. Through this framework, the RBAs are implementing a joint programme to promote food security and strengthen resilience against shocks and stressors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, and Somalia. WFP targets the most food-insecure people through Food Assistance For Assets interventions, providing food and cash transfers to cover households' immediate food needs so they can dedicate time to building assets that reduce the risk and impacts of climatic shocks and seasonal hardships; FAO-supported farmer and pastoral field schools, along with training in climate-resilient agricultural practices, helps to boost production and increase income and diversification of livelihoods; while IFAD works to strengthen local producers' organizations, promote greater access to rural financial services and improve the community-based governance of scarce natural resources.



WFP also works with FAO bilaterally in resilience interventions in a large majority of the countries reviewed. In South Sudan for example, WFP collaborates with FAO through joint programming and strategically through coordination at national and subnational levels. FAO's support and projects provide seeds, planting materials (e.g., grain, vegetables, and trees) and advisory services, which are layered with WFP's assistance, particularly with community asset creation activities to rehabilitate lands for cultivation and strengthen water management systems (including rains and flood waters). In addition, WFP often provides logistical support to transport FAO's emergency kits (e.g., seeds, fishing kits, etc.). The two agencies jointly support the government of South Sudan in early warning systems, including to strengthen climate information downscaling to the communities and to strengthen the coordination of disaster risk mitigation actions.

UNICEF is also a major UN resilience partner for WFP, working with WFP in a majority of countries reviewed. For example, in Mauritania, WFP and UNICEF provide a multi-sectoral resilience package in targeted communities, providing services to households along various points of the lifecycle in close collaboration with the Government. Based on a community participation process which helps determine priorities, WFP focuses on asset creation, school feeding, and lean season humanitarian assistance via cash transfers, while UNICEF intervenes to provide WASH activities, and trainings and sensitizations on education, health, and sanitation. WFP and UNICEF work together to prevent malnutrition and ensure complementarities across implemented activities.

The collaboration with UNICEF and FAO often takes place under tripartite arrangements, or even quadripartite with other UN agencies. While WFP's main UN partners on resilience generally are the two RBAs and UNICEF, other key UN stakeholders include UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, UNHCR, IOM, and UN-Women, based on specific country presence and engagement. In Mozambique, for example, WFP, UNHCR, FAO and UN Habitat collaborate closely on enhancing refugee livelihoods and self-reliance in the *Maratane* settlement. This programme, which benefited close to 2,000 households, aimed to support self-reliance and local integration through a range of livelihood interventions that focus on market and value chain development and aim to lift refugee and host community households out of chronic poverty and food insecurity.

## **Other Partners**

Other partners, outside of the Cooperating Partners directly implementing the projects under a Field Level Agreement Modality, include development partners such as GIZ, OXFAM, DRC or Mercy Corps, as well as Universities and private sector.

In Niger, GIZ and WFP through the complementarities of their respective interventions, target the same intervention areas and the same communities, to build the resilience of vulnerable populations. Using 3PA (three-pronged approach) participatory planning tools, WFP implements Food assistance for Assets, capacity and local value chains strengthening and smallholder farmers support, treatment and prevention of malnutrition, support to government school feeding programs, and a climate services package. GIZ complements the WFP package with social cohesion, income generating activities, community infrastructure development using local materials and "green" techniques and Community-based Early Warning Systems.

In West Africa, WFP supports the Sahel University Network for Resilience (REUNIR), which facilitates cooperation and knowledge sharing on resilience building, advances the institutionalization of resilience tools and helps train the next generation of resilience experts. It deploys Master's and PhD students from universities to WFP integrated resilience sites to conduct research for their theses. In Eastern and Southern Africa, to advance the institutionalization of resilience tools, WFP



trained national universities to implement the 3PA planning and resilience programming design tools.

Building from these experiences, WFP is now bringing together a network of African universities under a Livelihood Assets & Resilience Academy (LARA) to spearhead and promote the localization of expert capacities in integrated evidence-based and risk-informed resilience-building programme design and implementation. LARA aims to create a critical mass of national and regional experts through a wide network of accredited tertiary education institutions across Africa able to support, complement and augment the capacities of WFP, government institutions, and NGO's working to scale up environmentally sound and productive livelihoods asset creation and integrated resilience initiatives to the benefit of vulnerable and food insecure communities across the continent.

