

Introduction

Slide one – cute smiling girls

- Merci Madame la Présidente. Je vais peut-être vous étonner, mais je ne vais pas commencer par le virus ébola. Je vais vous présenter plutôt les principaux progrès et développements concernant les opérations du PAM pour l'ensemble de l'Afrique occidentale et centrale.

Suivi

Slide two – Site monitoring

- Je commence par le suivi.
- Assurer un suivi de qualité est une priorité du PAM au niveau global– et ce besoin a été souligné par vous pendant les remarques à l'ouverture de Conseil hier.
- Il y a un an, j'ai eu l'occasion de vous présenter une analyse que nous avons menée sur nos systèmes de suivi dans la région. L'analyse avait constaté que plus de la moitié des 19 pays ne disposait pas de systèmes de suivi robustes.
- En début 2014, le Bureau Régional a élaboré une stratégie sur deux ans pour la région avec quelques **objectifs** clés:
 - o D'abord, renforcer la collecte systématique de données sur nos **produits** à fin d'identifier les défis programmatiques immédiates et ajuster nos opérations;
 - o Ensuite, que tous les pays arrivent à collecter et rendre compte sur des indicateurs **d'effet direct** pour nous permettre de réorienter nos programmes selon le besoin;
 - o Et enfin développer une approche commune pour le **suivi post-distribution**.
- A cet effet, depuis le début de l'année, le Bureau Régional a mis en place des **rapports régionaux trimestriels** basés sur notre système « ATOMS. »
 - o Le **premier rapport** portait en grande partie sur les **produits** de nos opérations. Cela nous a également permis d'identifier les défis en matière de capacité de nos bureaux et de lancer un programme de formations adapté.
 - o Le **deuxième rapport** a permis d'affiner le suivi sur les produits, et a **introduit des indicateurs** sur le développement des capacités et sur le contrôle inopiné des sites de projets.

Slide three – TSF Recovery rates

- La préparation du **troisième rapport** est en cours, et portera sur les **indicateurs d'effet directs**, notamment sur la performance des programmes de nutrition et sur les taux de scolarisation.
- *Quelques résultats préliminaires déjà reçus des pays sont affichés sur l'écran.*
- Jeudi, il y aura un évènement consacré sur ce sujet pour parler plus en détail sur les progrès réalisés ainsi que les des prévisions – comme un projet pilote de suivi à distance à travers les téléphones portables, dans le cadre de la réponse ébola.

Nutrition

a) TSF

- A primary concern in the West and Central Africa region is the high prevalence of malnutrition.
- WFP continues to implement targeted supplementary feeding programmes and has treated approximately 1.1 million malnourished children and 590,000 mothers thus far this year. Monitoring shows that the programmes are successful, with recovery rates on average above 80%.
- But we also know that this alone does not address the root of the nutrition challenge.

Slide four – quote “integrated FS and Nut”

b) BSF

- We need to do better, to reach children earlier. We have been working to develop large-scale nutrition supplementation programmes to prevent acute malnutrition during lean season periods in the Sahel.
 - A joint **MSF, WFP, and Government of Niger study** was published this September in the Public Library of Science following a longitudinal study in Niger. The study found that when providing a cash transfer alone, the incidence of moderate acute malnutrition was twice as high as compared to populations who received a combined cash transfer and nutritious supplement. The incidence of severe acute malnutrition was found to be three times higher.
- Drawing on the best practice coming out of the Sahel, we have actively pushed to replicate similar programmes in **conflict settings**, where half of maternal and child deaths occur today.

- Latest **screening findings** among Malian refugees in Niger, C.A.R. refugees in Cameroon, and conflict-affected populations in Bangui show that through integrated food and nutrition support complemented with water, sanitation, hygiene and health programmes we have been able to **stabilize above-emergency** levels of malnutrition.
 - Beyond the direct outcomes, the scale and reach of WFP blanket feeding programmes also offer an important entry point for complementary services including partner immunization campaigns and behavioral change communication. This **opportunity** was highlighted during the 2014 Millennium Development Goal Global Health Alliance conference, as a platform to be leveraged to deliver other services to prevent mortality in conflict settings.
- c) Stunting
- Beyond mitigating acute malnutrition and mortality, a complementary approach can also begin to address the overwhelming challenge facing the region: child stunting.
 - WFP and UNICEF have recognized that the full benefits for stunting prevention can only be achieved if our nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programmes converge. And so we are finalizing a **Joint five-year Framework** to strengthen collaboration on programmes for stunting prevention in the region.
 - To this end, WFP is working with the **John Snow research** and training institute to build our capacity on behavioral change communication, to better address malnutrition using also non food-based mechanisms.
 - Unfortunately, 2014 was met by important **funding constraints** in 5 of 7 Sahelian countries implementing blanket supplementary feeding programmes. We were forced to cut the number of beneficiaries by more than 60%, limiting the success and impact of the programme.

Resilience

Slide five – slide on 3 tools of resilience/approach

- One year ago I also had the opportunity to introduce our resilience-building Roadmap for West Africa. The roadmap recognizes the **nexus** between structural challenges and seasonal shocks and the need for **longer-term asset** development that is planned and executed with **communities**. The programme is designed to **maximize** the combined

impact of WFP activities – and to capitalize on **partner** technical and programmatic expertise, carried out together in the same community.

- In 2014, we created a Regional resilience unit and have been working with headquarters and with experienced colleagues in Niger to build similar foundations across the Sahel.
 - o **Seasonal livelihood programming** – is one of our key tools to strengthen operational coordination and partnerships, and enable the identification of effective, integrated and layered interventions to build resilience. The approach is actively under way in regions of Chad, Mali, Niger and Senegal, and will be launched in Mauritania and Burkina Faso in early 2015.
- Because resilience-programming is premised on integrated interventions adapted to each operational context – **monitoring progress** requires drawing on multiple information management systems.
 - o WFP uses the **Coping Strategy Index**, a primary indicator to measure the impact of concerted resilience-building efforts under the multi-year Sahel Strategic Response Plan.
 - o And we are also working with UN partners on a concept note to support the regional inter-governmental committee against drought in the Sahel (CILSS), who is exploring the possibility to put in place a multi-stakeholder **technical platform on resilience measurement**.
- Our programme documents reflect these developments. Over the past year the Niger and Mauritania PRROs were approved here – and today Chad, Mali, and Senegal will each be presenting their new operations which integrate the tools and concepts of resilience-building, adapted to the specific context of each country.

Programme d'alimentation scolaire

Slide six – Quote from declaration

- Ici en juin, le PAM et les **représentants permanents** de la région se sont rencontrés pour discuter des priorités et des préoccupations pour la région. La discussion fut constructive, et a conclu sur la nécessité de développer une stratégie régionale d'alimentation scolaire durable, et endogène.
- Suite à cette rencontre, les ministres de l'éducation de la région se sont réunis au cours du Forum global sur l'enfant et la nutrition, tenu à **Johannesburg** en septembre. Une

déclaration conjointe a été élaborée et signée par 7 des ministres en faveur d'une alimentation scolaire durable.

- Les ministres se sont aussi engagés à promouvoir au sein de leur gouvernements, une augmentation progressive des **allocations budgétaires** à fin qu'au moins 1% des budgets nationaux soient consacrés à l'alimentation scolaire.

Emergencies

Slide 7 – 9 (3 slides) – Pics from C.A.R.

Slide 7 – trucks in rain

- Amidst these positive developments, I can not ignore the reality of the region today which is faced with increasing and unprecedented challenges.

A) Central African Republic

- Next month it will be one year on since the conflict in Central African Republic was declared a system-wide Level 3 emergency. A six month extension has now been approved, as the origins of the conflict have not yet been addressed and violence has once again rocked the capital.
- On a positive note, I am pleased to share that a series of **national-level data** on food security and nutrition has been collected. These include a WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment, a WFP/FAO Crop and Food Security Assessment, and a UNICEF-led SMART nutrition survey. Findings provide an important update on the evolving humanitarian situation one year on. And what we find, is a very mixed picture overall.

Slide 8 – truck in bush

- Today, nearly **30% of the population** in C.A.R. is food insecure – representing some deterioration from 2013. Compared to last year, we have seen a slight increase in crop production, but **overall production remains nearly 60 percent below** the pre-crisis average. Meanwhile, early results of the nutrition survey suggest that malnutrition has been **stabilized below emergency levels**; unfortunately, alarming levels of under-five mortality and high stunting levels in some areas continue.
- Assessments underscore the **direct link between high vulnerability and conflict**.

Slide 9 – family displaced

- Persons who have been displaced are more likely to be severely food insecure, and the highest rates of food insecurity are found in those regions most heavily affected by conflict.
 - **Livestock numbers** in C.A.R. have declined by 77 percent. And in rural areas, **food reserves** are estimated to be nearly 50 percent lower than average.
- Findings are allowing us to refine geographic and household targeting to best prioritize those who are most in need of continued life-saving support – but access remains a significant challenge.

B) Nigeria Refugee

- Since mid-2015 we have also seen important influxes of populations fleeing violence in northern Nigeria into neighboring countries.
 - o Today it is estimated that more than 100,000 persons have arrived in eastern Niger alone, in addition to refugees in Cameroon and Chad.
 - o We are witnessing a **dynamic of displacement that is quite unique**. Families are crossing not only over land borders, but are scattered across more than 40 islands of Lac Chad. And recent waves of arrival are categorized by majority female-headed households, and highly malnourished children.
- The insecurity in northern Nigeria has crossed over into Cameroon, and we are now also facing an IDP crisis in the country.
- We are working very closely with UNHCR to respond to the increasingly complex security and humanitarian crisis. This week we have finalized a **Regional Emergency response** for the border areas of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

C) Ebola

Slide 10 – 16 (5 slides) – Pics Ebola EMOP

Slide 10 – man w PPE

- I cannot close without updating you on the rapidly evolving Ebola crisis in West Africa.

Slide 11 – Ebola Treatment center

- Since April 2014, WFP has provided **1.3 million persons** with food to support of the health response in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. This includes quarantined households and communities, patients in treatment centers, and survivors.

Slide 12 – Child receiving cooked meal ETC

- Today, we are preparing a revision to the response, the revision will be two-fold:
 - o a) First, we will **reinforce the health response** to support the new community-care model. The first 10 community care centers are being established this week in Sierra Leone, and some 300 are planned to be erected over the coming weeks across the three countries.
 - o b) Alongside the health response, we will introduce **a food security pillar** - to be gradually expanded.

Slide 13 – Red Cross and Line of persons at distribution

- We have prepared a **modeling** on the impact of ebola on food security. What we estimated is that already by October, **200,000 persons had been newly pushed** into food insecurity as a result of the ebola crisis. This is on top of the estimated 1.5 million persons estimated to be previously food insecure across the three countries.

Slide 14 – Rural distribution w/ PPE

- A part of this is due to the loss of family members and breadwinners. But the greater impact is a result **indirect effects**: traditional consumption and livelihoods have been disrupted; normal cross-border trade and supply routes are blocked; and the fear and stigma surrounding the disease have weakened social cohesion and support.

Slide 15 – Urban slum

- o An important element of the upcoming budget revision, will be to review not only the *what*, but the **how** of our response.
 - We are defining agreements to work with catering companies and with local women for the **preparation of cooked meals** using a mix of WFP specialized nutrition commodities and fresh local produce.

Slide 16 – Truck stuck in mud

- We are also exploring opportunities for **local procurement**, and to integrate **cash transfers** in areas not under quarantine.

Slide 17 – 19 (3 slides) – Pics Ebola SO

- But the EMOP is only one part of our response.

Slide 17 – delivering Red Cross ambulance

- Today we are implementing an **unprecedented Special Operation** ensuring common air services and telecommunications, and managing the supply chain for the entire health response –from regional staging areas in Las Palmas, Dakar, and Accra, to the most remote rural forest epicenter villages in the three countries.

Slide 18 – set up of mobile storage

- o The outputs under the operation are wide-ranging, from :
 - the construction of treatment units providing 700 new beds for ebola patients;
 - the procurement of 500 mobile phones so that patients in treatment centers are able to communicate with their families;

Slide 19 – UNHAS + MSF

- the provision of nearly 30,000 square meters of additional storage space to receive, package, prioritize and delivery vital supplies; and
- the safe air transport of more than 1,800 passengers;

Slide 20 – WFP staff w PPE

- Today we have more than 600 staff working on the ground in the three countries to implement the EMOP and Special Operation. Their well-being is our primary concern. We have sent in health advisors to each office – and are now increasing to two advisors per country – and have recruited a public health specialist based in Dakar to support teams.

Slide 21 – Thermometer gun

- Distributions are designed and implemented according to guidelines developed with WHO – and recently updated based on experience in the field.
- We need to keep everyone safe.

Conclusion – going forward

Slide 22 – “Thank you” – image of WFP truck in urban area

- Let me end on this note. We are facing a **high number of challenges** – from ebola, to insecurity in northern Mali and C.A.R. and Cameroon, to poor rainfall in areas of the Sahel and Guinea Bissau. And just these past weeks the demonstrations in Burkina Faso once again showed us how quickly things can change.
- With our staff and partners we continue to work each day to save lives in complex emergencies.
- But we have also not forgotten the **fundamentals**. This is why we continue to push with partners and governments on stunting prevention and sustainable school meal programmes –and with communities on asset-creation to invest in resilience-building. And it is what we are trying to do through the planned refinements to emergency operations for C.A.R. and the ebola affected countries.
- We need to not lose focus on the emergency needs, but we should continue to review both the *what* and the *how* of the work we are doing to try and bridge relief and recovery at the same time.