

Sixth informal joint meeting of the FAO Council, IFAD Executive Board and WFP Executive Board 30 November–1 December 2022

Update on SD3C Programme, an example of IFAD financing enabling RBA regional collaboration

Background

1. The Joint Sahel programme in response to the challenges of COVID-19, conflicts and climate change (SD3C) was approved in 2020 and is planned for a period of six years. It is a response to the challenges of COVID-19, conflicts and climate change and will contribute to the implementation of the G5 Sahel strategy for development and security. It aims to consolidate the livelihoods of small producers, in particular women and young people living in cross-border areas of the region. The target group is estimated at 123,000 rural households or 854,750 people, half of whom are women and 40 per cent young people.
2. The programme has three components:
 - Increase in agro-silvo-pastoral and fishery productivity and production through climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies.
 - Economic integration through interventions aimed at strengthening cross-border markets and securing border transactions.
 - Political dialogue, coordination and management integrated into the coordination mechanism of the G5 Sahel.
3. The SD3C is implemented on the ground in close collaboration between IFAD, FAO, WFP, the G5 Sahel Secretariat and the six governments (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Mauritania). This joint endeavour brings together the RBAs respective experience and comparative advantage to support the programme and ensure that each agency contributes with its technical knowledge and expertise. The programme aims to impact the institutional capacities of the G5 Sahel in terms of inclusive political and social dialogue in favour of peace and security with the active involvement of farmers' organizations.
4. IFAD contributes significant financial resources to the programme, as well as provides financial management, technical support and coordination, particularly for supervision. FAO and WFP provide technical expertise and implementation support. The SD3C programme is operationalizing the MoU, signed in December 2020, between the G5 Sahel and the RBAs. As of September 2022, all countries (except Mauritania) and the G5 Sahel have started implementing their activities. The programme also contributes to and is aligned with the implementation of the G5 Sahel strategy for development and security, along with the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS).

5. Additionally, SD3C is being coordinated to ensure complementary support with two other programmes of parallel financing. The first is through IFAD's role as executing agency for the Africa Climate Risk Financing Programme (AICRM) with Green Climate Fund (GCF) financing of around USD 83 million, which focuses on building the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change impacts in Africa and focused on rural insurance in the region. The other is the Inclusive Green Financing Initiative (IGREENFIN), which is dedicated to green credit lines in the region with GCF funding of EUR 104 million and growing.
6. **Progress and results:** Under IFAD coordination efforts, governments have agreed to sign agreements (UTFs) with FAO and WFP at the country level to support the implementation of part of the programme activities in the field according to the comparative advantages of each. These activities started at the end of 2021 after the approval of the annual workplan and budget and the transfer of funds to the various executing entities.
7. IFAD has been coordinating planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluations, reporting, and implementation of activities on the ground by FAO, WFP and hosting projects. In November 2022, IFAD led the last supervision with the technical assistance of the FAO Investment Centre.
8. Towards the goal of assembling additional financing and ensuring complementarity, efforts are already underway in IFAD to launch the AICRM in the same countries and in the Gambia, by giving insurance to the beneficiaries of SD3C and/or hosting projects where it is possible. Similar efforts of ensuring synergies are underway for IGREENFIN, including the provision of green credit to relevant beneficiaries. Conversations with other donors are also underway and described further below.
9. The table below summarizes the key results achieved by the project since its inception till September 2022 through the activities implemented by FAO and WFP. Many of these activities such as targeting, were carried out jointly. IFAD's primary role remains financing, as well as coordination with the various stakeholders. The G5 Sahel ensuring the regional coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the SD3C. The programme has highlighted the importance of fostering a collaborative working dynamic between the three agencies to facilitate its smooth running. Inter-agency operational coordination has been recognized as an essential pillar of the programme to maximize integration and strengthen synergies.

Countries	FAO activities and results	WFP activities and results
Burkina Faso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An unconditional cash transfer implementation plan developed and validated for 1 063 households (particularly for women heads of households and young people). ➤ 25 agro-pastoral field schools established in 5 districts. ➤ 3 375 heads of breeding goats, 900 heads of fattened sheep, 113 tons of livestock feed, 174 medicines for livestock diseases. ➤ 639 kits to fight against COVID-19 ➤ 25 agro-pastoralist field school established involving 625 producers ➤ Installation of 400 beacons for cattle tracks ➤ Rehabilitation of 7 pastoral boreholes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Productive asset creation activities through the food assistance for assets (FFA) approach for 1 419 households (851 female participants and 568 male participants) resulting in a total of 90 ha of agricultural half-moons, 155 ha of agricultural zaï, 137 ha of pastoral half-moons, 38 manure pits, the production of 743 mt of compost for nutritious gardens and production of seedlings, 5 homestead gardens of 500 m² each and 50 household “lucky gardens”. ➤ 82 home visits on barrier measures to fight against COVID-19 for 1 012 people. <p>Capacity building activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Women making 850 improved stoves. <p>Implementation of community nurseries (18,600 nutritious moringa plants, baobab products)</p>
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 9 circles and 15 communes located in the border areas of SD3C have been jointly selected by RBAs. ➤ 8 680 households (i.e. 52 080 individuals) of which 30 percent are women and young people are targeted following an inclusive community participation process, monitored and co-facilitated by local NGOs in collaboration with the community and decentralized technical services. ➤ Provision of agricultural kits to 3 509 people including 821 women and 626 young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8 community-based participatory planning workshops.

Countries	FAO activities and results	WFP activities and results
<p>Niger</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training on works on defence and restoration of soils and conservation of water and soils techniques for 54 brigadiers/team leaders of WFP. ➤ Hands-on skill training on preparation of multi-nutrient livestock feed block for 54 beneficiaries including 21 women ➤ Provision and distribution of 14 crushers as key equipment of the preparation of the multi-nutrient livestock feed block ➤ -72 young girls trained (36/districts) on the manufacturing of artisanal masks and soap, for the prevention of COVID-19. ➤ Provision of 4 800 households with home garden equipment. ➤ Provision of 48 00 household with agricultural seeds. ➤ Establishment and capacity development of 100 Dimitra clubs¹. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ -Nutritional assistance for 1 747 children aged 6–23 months to prevent malnutrition. ➤ Production of 237 540 plants. ➤ Productive asset creation activities through the FFA approach resulting in a total of 1 020 ha of land restored, 73 km stone bunds constructed and 9 578 m³ of multipurpose water pond excavated, cash for asset for 2 762 households. <p>Agro-silvo-pastoral development of sites and small-scale irrigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training of communities on tree planting and management of restored land. ➤ Development of 3 community fields (3 ha for millet, cowpea, sesame and sorghum) ➤ Building and equipment of 7 village seedling production nurseries in Diffa and 12 seedling production nurseries in Filingué. ➤ Training on plant production techniques for 246 participants. ➤ Production of 95 530 plants in Filingué and 141 955 plants in Diffa ➤ Develop integrated plan for 4 community market gardens (2.5 ha each), 3 in Filingué and 1 in Nguiguimi ➤ Pastoral and agricultural management of restored sites (600 ha)

¹ They are groups of women, men and young people – mixed or not – who organize on a voluntary basis to bring about changes in their communities and resolve problems using their own resources, without relying on external support.

Countries	FAO activities and results	WFP activities and results
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ -63 Dimitra clubs established in 21 villages for a total of 1 890 members, 60 percent of whom are women and 45 percent young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rehabilitation of pastoral shop with the Departmental Service of Livestock and Animal Production. ➤ Training on agro-biological techniques (composting, bio pesticides): 24 participants of which 17 women. ➤ Productive asset creation activities through the FFA approach resulting in a total of 2.16 km of stone barriers and 10 dykes constructed.
Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2 participatory community planning workshops carried out for the benefit of 10 villages. ➤ Rehabilitation of 820 linear meters covering 1 600 ha, for the benefit of 3 200 farmers (including 2 014 men (63 percent), 1 186 women (37 percent) and 1 231 young people (38 percent). ➤ Provision and distribution of 11 500 kg of seeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Productive asset creation activities through the FFA approach resulting in a total of 3 dikes of 0.82 km rehabilitated to restore 1 600 ha, 750 improved stoves manufactured within households, 300 family latrines constructed in vulnerable households and 3 grain stores built. ➤ Socio-economic categorization: identification of 3,200 households and the socio-economic categorization following the Household Economy Approach (2 014 men and 1 186 women including 1 318 young people). ➤ Food assistance in conditional cash to 2 075 households (1 400 households for the rehabilitation of dykes, 375 for improved stoves and 300 for latrines) through the FFA approach.

10. **Challenges in implementation:** Resource mobilization, communication/knowledge management, reporting and programme coordination are the main areas for attention in the programme:

- There is a financing gap of around USD 80 million, which must be filled for the project to achieve its objectives. While IFAD expects to provide around USD 86 million in resources and there are co-financing opportunities with donors, there remains a large gap to be filled. FAO, WFP, and IFAD should continue to offer and assemble financing.
- A knowledge management and communication strategy has been defined at the regional level, however implementation at the local level has struggled.
- There is a clear desire to work in synergy and in complementarity and this has been translated into the field by the joint implementation of certain activities, particularly targeting. Despite this desire, there has also been segmentation of implementation also due to a lack of an overall and strong coordination and a late start of the programme. The achievement of its results is limited but promising.

- Financial reporting has been the overriding challenge of the programme for 2022, as each agency and partner have different requirements. Fortunately, following the conclusion and recommendations of the supervision mission and the Dakar's workshop of 7-8 November, the issue has been addressed in all countries except Senegal, where a proposed solution is expected to be successfully implemented in the coming weeks.
 - Retroceded funds are another challenge of the programme. This mechanism consists of making available to the G5 Sahel executive secretariat a financial envelope upon each country loans for the implementation of regional activities. All countries have signed the on-lending agreements with the exception of Burkina Faso (due to the availability of funds) and Mauritania (for not signing the agreement with IFAD). Nevertheless, the funds to be retroceded remain a problem to be solved because some projects still do not make available to the regional unit the full amount stipulated in the agreements. The reasons have been clarified through the completion of the supervision mission and all the countries are regularizing this situation.
11. **Opportunities:** The SD3C programme is innovative. It is innovative in several respects, both in terms of complementarity between agencies and in terms of the different themes addressed in a single programme in the Sahel zone (conflict, food security and COVID-19). It is also important to note the strengthening of activities planned in SD3C areas through the AICRM programme. This uniqueness of this joint programme is attracting the interest of certain donors. Following these first years of start-up and satisfactory results, several funding opportunities have arisen on top of the USD 86 million to be provided by IFAD expected in phase two such as:
- **Austrian fund:** USD 2.5 million, these funds would be shared between the countries, the coordination of the G5-Sahel secretariat and IFAD.
 - **Italian fund:** This is an envelope of EUR 1.87 million for Mauritania.
 - **Canadian Fund:** There is an opportunity to join with the GGGI to secure USD 30 million for the second phase of the SD3C programme.
 - **Nederland Fund:** EUR 11.22 million already secured to also fill gap of phase 1.
12. These opportunities would fill the various funding gaps that exist today and strengthen the actions planned within the SD3C programme, however this would not close the existing financial gap in its entirety.
13. **Food security:** Aware of the food situation in the intervention areas, the SD3C programme has integrated into its implementation mechanism a set of activities that contribute to improving the food situation in the countries. These are:
- WFP's FFA approach, which aims to make food vouchers, cash (or food) directly available to people who are willing to participate in community-based asset creation or rehabilitation activities to meet the food needs of themselves and their families. More precisely, FFA restores degraded landscapes, expands the availability and diversity of food produced and consumed locally, and ensures that local food production and income-generating activities can continue through shocks and crises. The results table above gives a small idea of the impact of this action.

- Nutritional assistance activities targeted for children aged between 6 and 23 months distribution of (livestock or agricultural) kits. Sufficient and quality inputs increase production (agricultural as well as livestock) which thus favours an increase in income (or a decrease in the hunger gap) for the beneficiaries. This financial income (or the reduction in the hunger gap) promotes a better food situation. Agro-Pastoralist Field Schools for the training and exchanges around concrete agricultural practices adapted to specific soil and climate contexts. This strengthens the capacities of households in their food resilience and thus indirectly improve their food situation.

Priorities for 2023

14. Each country has their own priorities for 2023, however, one of the conclusions of the last supervision mission is to prepare the programme for the mid-term review at the beginning of 2024. It is urgent to conduct the programme baseline in 2023 and also necessary to review and amend the UTFs in 2023 to introduce more clarity in the reporting process. It is also important for countries with common borders to strengthen dialogue in order to develop synergies in planning activities for 2023. The design of the 2nd phase of SD3C is also a priority for 2023 to be implemented in 2024.