

Thank you Mister President.

In Niger we have a unique opportunity to address food and nutritional insecurity through the 3NI (Nigerians nourish Nigerians).

Context

WFP Niger is building on the lessons from the 2012 crisis. Early response, coupled with strong and flexible safety nets, proved to be very effective in mitigating the impact of the draught on food and nutritional insecurity.

This requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that we can sustain on the medium term to increase the capacity of the most vulnerable to resist shocks. Studies show that the most affected population can take up to three years before getting back to pre-crisis level. And even more needs to be invested to take these people above that pre crisis level.

Building on this experience, this 3 years PRRO is proposing a new integrated, field grounded approach under the leadership of the 3NI (Nigerians feed Nigerians) and in partnership with other IOs such as UNICEF, IFAD, FAO and others.

What's new

There are no new activities as such, but this is a new way of assisting the poorest of the poor. Building a comprehensive and flexible safety net that can adapt to the seasonality of Niger, and also adapt promptly in case of crisis. This safety net will target the most food and nutrition insecure areas of the country. Within these areas, through Household Food Security assessments, WFP will target the so called "very poor" (living below 1USD a day).

This targeting is done with the Government of Niger, through the DNGCC (Dispositif National de Gestion des Crises et des Catastrophe) and the INS (National Statistics Institute). Starting this year, the annual food security assessment done with these institutions will include MUAC to all kids under 5. This will give disaggregated data on malnutrition, and will be measured year after year.

Selected beneficiaries will be assisted throughout the year. Outside the lean season, WFP and partners will implement cash/food for asset to boost the agricultural production. During the four months lean season, which is also the farming time, unconditional cash/food transfer will protect the productive gain of the C/FFA. These families will also benefit from BSF (Blanket Supplementary Feeding) for children aged 6 to 23, and for pregnant and lactating women, during these four months. This will allow poor families to increase their resilience year after year.

School feeding and targeted supplementary feeding will complete the WFP integrated approach to form a productive and flexible safety net.

This integrated approach is under the umbrella of the 3N Initiative. Through the decentralized 3N Initiative offices in each region, WFP and partners are engaging in a comprehensive community mobilization including all actors, from the civil society to local authorities and all NGOs and IOs. WFP and 3NI staffs are currently under training, and a first pilot Seasonal Livelihood Programming exercise was done in Maradi. A second step, at the commune level, is under preparation in the Tillabery

region. A roll out plan is currently developed with the 3NI and other involved partners to implement these community mobilization exercises in all the targeted areas.

Two examples already in place:

In 2013, WFP and IFAD joined forces in Maradi region. By working on the same communities, IFAD is insuring a proper assistance to production with technical support and agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer, ...) to the beneficiaries of the C/FFA activities. This is increasing production at the local level, and WFP is now looking into local purchase to provide a stable market for this extra production. Following the visit of IFAD President earlier in the year, IFAD decided to extend the programme in Maradi and start it in Zinder and Tahoua. Currently WFP is also working with FAO, ILO and WHH on the same scheme, to insure that a proper follow-up with technical assistance and inputs to the WFP C/FFW. In some specific locations, WFP is also successfully working with the decentralized services of the Ministry of Agriculture. The aim is to insure that for each of the WFP C/FFA, proper technical assistance and necessary inputs, as well as midterm follow up, is insured to guarantee and increase agricultural production.

In the so called 35 “Communes de Convergence”, under the 3NI, UNICEF, FAO, UNWomen and WFP are planning an integrated approach starting in 2014. The communes are already identified, in agreement with the 3NI. The community mobilization is under way in the first 11 communes, and programs are expected to start in January 2014. The aim is to bring a holistic approach with food assistance, increased production, water and sanitation, education, community nutrition services, the so called Infant and Young Children Practices (IYCF), family planning... In these communes, specific baseline surveys and M&E systems will allow us to measure the result of this holistic approach. It is expected that chronic malnutrition rates will go down significantly within 3 to 5 years.

For the cash and food for work, and the targeted feeding, WFP will increase the use of cash where markets allow. We hope to reach 50 % of our beneficiaries with cash.

We want to increase local purchase, and target more and more small farmers. In 2013, we purchased locally more than 11,000 mt. We are now working on national policies, with the help of Brazil, the ministry of Education and the 3NI. We are developing a National Local purchase strategy, and in the newly agreed 10 years road map for the school canteens there is important planning for local purchase.

Result measuring will be extremely important to sustain the funding. We are currently working to improve an already good monitoring system, and the first PDM report on the lean season distribution should be available before the end of the year. Although the result framework is still quite output oriented, we are currently in contact with academics to measure results in a more scientific way. We are also working with Tufts university on addressing malnutrition in the Sahel, focusing on behaviors and planning intensive campaigns on a long term basis, using our activities as an entry point.

All these concepts need to be implemented into the deep field and with the government of Niger. Within the new PRRO a reinforcement of sub offices staff is planned, not only food monitors,

but dedicated staff who will work closely with the local authorities, with communes and villages. An important part of the ODOC budget is dedicated for capacity building, both at central and local levels. The government of Niger has the willingness to address food security and nutrition at the highest level, but they will need lots of support to implement this 3NI. WFP has the technical and human capacity to reinforce and work hand in hand with the government structure in this ambitious plan.

In Niger we have a unique opportunity, through the 3NI (Nigerians nourish Nigerians), to address food security insecurity and nutrition in an innovative manner. It is our duty!

Thank you Mister President.