



WFP and partners operationalizing integrated resilience packages in the Sahel: progress, challenges and opportunities

Side event on the margins of the 2019 second regular session of the Executive Board

Tuesday, 19 November 2019 from 13:15 to 14:45

Auditorium, WFP headquarters

Lunch will be served in the Peace Garden from 13:15 to 13:45

You are kindly invited to the side event on “WFP and partners operationalizing integrated resilience packages in the Sahel: progress, challenges and opportunities” which will be facilitated by the World Food Programme’s (WFP) Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department, Ms Valerie Guarnieri, with opening remarks from WFP Executive Director, Mr David Beasley; and country perspectives by Mr Issa Sorgho, Counsellor of the Minister of Agriculture of Burkina Faso; and H.E. Moulaye Ahmed Boubacar, Minister of Agriculture of Mali.

A panel discussion will follow with H.E. Ali Bety, High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative, Government of the Niger; Mr Kouldjim Guidio, G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat Representative; Ms Elke Löbel, Director for Displacement and Migration, Crisis Prevention and Management - Commissioner for Refugee Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Government of Germany; Ms Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa; Mr Chris Nikoi, WFP Regional Director for West Africa; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative; and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Representative.

Context

The recurrence of needs in the Sahel, the dire food and nutrition situation during the 2018 lean season as well as the recent deterioration of the humanitarian and security situation in Mali, the Niger and Burkina Faso, has highlighted the importance of investing in integrated resilience packages tailored to different contexts, linking humanitarian and development interventions to safeguard livelihoods, rebuild social cohesion, and mitigate the impact of future shocks.

Building upon the promising experience in the Niger since 2013—and more recently in neighbouring countries—WFP has developed in 2018 an Operational Framework for Resilience in the Sahel – emphasizing the need to invest in livelihoods, ecosystems, nutrition, education and jobs to strengthen the resilience of individuals, communities and systems through integrated efforts and robust engagement with governments and partners. The Executive Director’s multiple visits to the Sahel and strategic leadership have brought significant traction in terms of corporate focus and funding.

This translates into WFP ramping up the Sahel resilience efforts through an integrated package of activities (food assistance for assets, school meals, nutrition-specific and-sensitive interventions, capacity strengthening, social protection, etc.) in each community over a period of five years, nuanced to suit different livelihood contexts and meet the particular needs of the population. Furthermore, this approach seeks deliberate partnerships with major stakeholders – starting from regional institutions such as the G5, governments, United Nations [e.g., UNICEF and the Rome-based agencies, the World Bank, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)] – with the aim at forging complementarities, and further scale up. This



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



IFAD
Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme

constitutes a paradigm shift — improving the approach for resilience through convergent, integrated, larger scale and people-focused interventions.

Since 2018, with the support from donors, WFP has been scaling-up resilience interventions in the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger), implementing an integrated resilience package across the five countries at larger scale.

With the focus on resilience in the Sahel, WFP recognizes the importance of a dual response, linking emergency activities to cater for immediate needs and avoid a deterioration of the humanitarian situation (e.g., in Mali, the Niger and Burkina Faso) while simultaneously addressing longer-term needs and vulnerabilities to preclude serious consequences on stability and economic growth. With resilience programmes, WFP contributes to addressing the drivers impacting social stability aligned to its mandate, i.e. food and nutrition insecurity.

Objectives

The objective of the side event is to further create awareness and advocate for the resilience approach in the Sahel with internal (WFP management and colleagues) and external (partners, donors, etc.) stakeholders. More specifically, the regional bureau for West Africa aims to:

1. Foster the **relevance and imperative of coalitions building to support** integrated resilience efforts;
2. Showcase **results achieved in the field** through resilience scale-up efforts – i.e. improved solidarity, jobs, natural resources, food security and nutrition, access to markets, capacity of communities and government for planning and implementation, and partnerships - after only one year of implementation, as well as longer-term impacts of resilience efforts in the Niger since 2013/2014 (and more recently in Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mauritania);
3. Highlight the need for **further integrated, convergent and scalable efforts** for resilience – with a focus on regional, government and community engagement and ownership, including through participatory planning, dialogues, empowerment and coalitions building;
4. Underline the importance and role of **incremental and sequential partnerships** for sustainability and scale [e.g., working with UNICEF, FAO, IFAD, the World Bank, etc.];
5. Highlight the relevance of integrated resilience for the nexus and **linking emergency response to investments in peace building and risk informed development** to ensure flexible response catered to short- and long-term needs in the Sahel.

Format

The objective will be achieved by giving a voice to key stakeholders and spokespersons, primarily governments, regional institutions (G5), and partners through a dual approach. An **exhibition** of photographic and video material (Seed to Feed area) will highlight voices from the field and showcase impacts of resilience interventions. The exhibition will last for the full duration of the Executive Board. Second, a panel discussion will allow government representatives, United Nations partners and WFP management to outline their perspectives and vision for resilience building in the Sahel.

Tentative agenda

13:15 Lunch will be served in the Peace Garden

13:45 Welcome and opening comments

- Ms Valerie Guarnieri, WFP Assistant Executive Director, Programme and Policy Development Department

13:50 Opening remarks and introductory perspectives

- Mr David Beasley, WFP Executive Director – Scaling-up resilience in the Sahel: a game changer
- His Excellency Moulaye Ahmed Boubacar, Minister of Agriculture of Mali
- Mr Issa Sorgho, Counsellor of the Minister of Agriculture of Burkina Faso

14:05 Facilitated panel discussion

Moderator: Ms Valerie Guarnieri

- His Excellency Ali Bety, High Commissioner for the 3N Initiative, Government of the Niger
- Mr Kouldjim Guidio, G5 Sahel Resilience Pillar Coordinator – G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat
- Ms Elke Löbel, Director for Displacement and Migration; Crisis Prevention and Management; Commissioner for Refugee Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Germany
- Joint statement by Ms Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa, and Mr Chris Nikoi, WFP Regional Director for West Africa
- FAO, WFP and IFAD joint statement delivered by Mr Dominique Bourgeon, FAO Director of Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader – Resilience

14:25 Questions and answers from the public

14:40 Closing comments

- Ms Valerie Guarnieri, WFP Assistant Executive Director Programme, and Policy Development Department

Each panellist will state in three minutes their vision and perspective in relation to forming and scaling up operational partnerships for resilience building within the context of the nexus. The moderator, after the questions and answers, may conclude by asking each panellist a one-minute remark to provide synthetically one top-priority action for integrated resilience through operational partnerships.