

## **EB November 2012 – ODD statement – Key points**

### **Sahel:**

- **Harvest ongoing** – favorable prospects (communities remain weakened and prices high => 30-90% higher than the 5-years average => access challenge
- Hundreds of thousands suffering from the **Mali crisis** and **localized floods**  
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- Looking back, WFP did its share in averting a humanitarian disaster in the Sahel. We got close to meeting our objective of feeding 10 million people.
- During lean season, **5 to 6 million people supported each month**, during mitigation phase **1 – 3 million** (see foot note on beneficiary counting in the statement).
- **Three phases of the Sahel response since 2011:** Mitigation phase, lean season large-scale response, now transitioning towards long term activities to build resilience.  
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- **Improvement in acute malnutrition rates** noted among beneficiaries of nutrition interventions; nevertheless, **rates remain high – above ‘serious’ levels.**
- **FFA** activities in Niger during mitigation phase **prevented migration and contributed to community assets.**
- **But: More needs to be done** beyond emergency response, as short-term intervention can contribute to resilience, but they cannot make it happen in isolation.
- **Conditions for the successful resilience approach: government leadership, appropriate National framework, community ownership, partnership and multi-year financial support.**  
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- **Lessons learnt from the crisis:**
  - a) **Challenges:** availability of assessment results, contrasting messaging on the scale of the crisis, government’s varying readiness for preparedness and response, Regional procurement of 30,000 MT from Nigeria.

b) **Positive factors** (and what put us in a better position than in 2005/2010):

- ✓ Timely assessments and early preparedness and response,
- ✓ Strong donor support and consensus on the resilience approach,
- ✓ Early procurement, local and regional procurement: 30% of the commodities used.
- ✓ Massive scale-up of cash/voucher and nutrition activities.
- ✓ Good coordination and lessons learned from Horn of Africa crisis.
- ✓ Use of FPF and other advanced mechanism.

***Floods:***

- Well distributed rain since June contributed to good growth of crops
- Excess rainfall led to localized flooding. 2.5 million affected, of which more than 2 million in Nigeria, where WFP has sent a logistic Team to support the government response plan elaboration.
- In affected countries, WFP participated in assessments to identify needs, and provided food where needed (Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Cameroon, The Gambia)
- Alongside need to respond to short-term needs, emphasis is on long term strategies to mitigate impact of disasters on communities.

***Mali crisis:***

- Crisis led to complex environment, as drought affected communities were already supported through Sahel response.
  - Over 200,000 people displaced in Mali, and over 200,000 Malian refugees registered in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger.
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- Development of a Regional Interagency Mali + Contingency Plan based on an agreed scenario of instability in the South and a military intervention by ECOWAS and Mali in the North. The CP also will inform Country Specific CPs which are in the process of being finalized.

- UN agencies have been continuously insisting on the imperative for humanitarian access to the people and a safe space for beneficiaries and staff.
- Based on the Interagency CP, WFP has prepared its own framework to address the impact of the Mali crisis:
  - ❖ An extension of the regional EMOP which will cover the refugees needs in Niger, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and
  - ❖ A Mali EMOP to address the needs of the IDPs and other affected populations in Mali by the crisis.
- Currently WFP provides assistance to more than 250,000 people including IDPs and other affected populations through partner NGOs which have access to the north and carries out third party monitoring with an independent NGO, as we currently don't have access to this region.

In conclusion:

This year Sahel draught crisis may be over but the consensus on the resilience needs to be translated into concrete action for the millions of vulnerable people that have been affected by recurrent crisis and the high food prices.

WFP is determined to remain an active player and partner for this resilience agenda, of which ultimate aim will be that shocks do not become always crisis in that part of world.