

## Declaration of the Alliance Sahel on food security and nutrition in the Sahel

**15 February 2021** – *The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, in her capacity as President of the General Assembly of the Alliance Sahel, makes the following statement today:*

Armed conflict and insecurity in the Sahel region are the main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition, due to their impact on livelihoods, the increasing cases of Internally displaced people (IDPs) and the delivery of food aid. The effects of climate change and economic crises are also key determinants, exacerbated by the locust crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. The year 2020 has seen more than one million internally displaced people in Burkina Faso<sup>1</sup>, devastating rainfalls between July and September<sup>2</sup>, movement restrictions in the context of the fight against the pandemic, which have disrupted the movement of people, livestock and goods<sup>3</sup> as well as a general increase in local food prices.<sup>4</sup>

This food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel calls for strategic support from international partners.

Since its inception in 2017, the Alliance Sahel has identified agriculture, rural development and food security as one of its six priority areas of intervention. As of 31 December 2019, it is the second largest sector in the Alliance's portfolio with 243 financed projects (out of a total of 873), representing a commitment of €4.7 billion (out of a total of €20 billion). In order to optimise the impact of these commitments and to facilitate synergies and coordination between members, a working group was set up in 2017 under the leadership of the African Development Bank. However, even though significant results have been achieved in this area, the food situation continues to deteriorate.

It is in this context and considering the urgency of the situation that the members of the Alliance Sahel make the following recommendations:

- Accompany the G5 Sahel States in maintaining and **strengthening food supply chains** in order to limit the rise in food prices and ensure continued access to and supply of markets.
- Support the G5 Sahel States in **facilitating access to finance and agricultural inputs for the 2020-2021 season**, in particular for family farming.
- Provide support for **social protection mechanisms** for the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and young people.

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, August 2020

<sup>2</sup> OCHA, Sept 2020

<sup>3</sup> FEWS NET, June 2020

<sup>4</sup> RPCA-CILSS, June 2020

- Finance projects aimed at a **sustainable increase in food production**, in particular by promoting agro-ecological practices.
- **Adopt a flexible approach and programming** to finance national response plans and ensure the most essential services to the population, especially the most vulnerable groups.

**A concrete mobilisation** - Presentation of some emblematic projects illustrating the mobilisation of the members of the Alliance Sahel and its partners in the field and the results obtained to strengthen food security:

- **Joint Sahel programme in response to the challenges of COVID-19, conflict and climate change (SD3C, \$180M):** led by the G5 Sahel and Senegal, implemented by IFAD in partnership with WFP and FAO, this programme aims to contribute to the achievement of the 7 objectives of the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy and the National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIPs) while promoting regional integration and cooperation in the Sahel. It falls within the "Resilience and Human Development" focus area of the G5 Sahel Priority Investment Programme (PIP) and refers to the "Resilience" pillar of the United Nations Sahel Strategy (UNISS). It has several components: strengthening cross-border markets for agricultural inputs and production, improving the availability of agricultural and livestock products, strengthening the resilience of smallholders to climate change.
- **Project to Strengthen Resilience and Peaceful Cohabitation in Chad (PRCPT) :** co-financed by Germany (BMZ) and the European Union, this project has provided food assistance to more than 8,500 people (more information on the project and its achievements: [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/region/sahel-lake-chad/tchad/projet-de-renforcement-de-la-resilience-et-de-la-cohabitation-pacifique\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/region/sahel-lake-chad/tchad/projet-de-renforcement-de-la-resilience-et-de-la-cohabitation-pacifique_en)).
- **Regional Programme for Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS):** financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), this programme will be implemented over 20 years through four projects of five years each. The first P2RS project, with a budget of nearly US\$250 million, is being implemented in the 5 countries of the G5 Sahel and is expected to be completed by June 2021. It has enabled 500,000 households to increase, on a sustainable basis, their agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries production through access to resilient infrastructure, innovative technologies, good natural resource management practices and improved access to markets. The second P2RS project is under preparation and is expected to start its activities in January 2022.
- **Institutional Strengthening Project in Mauritania towards Agricultural and Pastoral Resilience (RIMRAP):** funded by the EU, it is implemented by AECID, GIZ and a consortium of NGOs. It contributes to reducing agro-pastoral vulnerability and improving the resilience of all local stakeholders and populations (more information on the project and its achievements: <https://youtu.be/67TyA7aISro>).
- **ECOWAS Regional Food Security Reserve Project** for Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria: financed by the EU and involving the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and AECID, this project aims to support ECOWAS in the implementation of its regional food security storage strategy, based on proximity stocks, national stocks and a regional food security reserve to ensure regional solidarity in the event of a major food crisis.

- **Scaling up Resilience in the G5 Sahel:** Implemented by WFP and BMZ, this initiative aims to improve the livelihoods and food situation of 1.24 million vulnerable people in a sustainable manner. To date, 580,000 children and pregnant and lactating women have benefited from interventions to treat or prevent malnutrition. 647,000 people have also benefited from community asset creation programmes, working for soil conservation, water collection, market gardening, composting, rural tracks, etc. More than 33,000 hectares of land have been rehabilitated and/or treated. 322,000 pupils have benefited from nutritious meals in 1,494 schools supported since the beginning of the project. From September 2019, UNICEF has received support from BMZ to implement the complementary programme 'Development of Resilience in the Sahel' in three countries (Mali, Mauritania, Niger) to reach 3 million people. Within this framework, around 73,000 children have received quality treatment for severe acute malnutrition since the start of the project.