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Government of Sweden to FAO  
Annual report 2023





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## Abbreviations

<b>AA</b>	Anticipatory Action
<b>AAP</b>	Accountability to affected people
<b>AIRC</b>	Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity
<b>ATAA</b>	<i>Ataa Insani Yardimlasma Dernegi</i> (the Syrian Arab Republic)
<b>CNRS</b>	Centre for Natural Resource Studies (Bangladesh)
<b>CPF</b>	Country Programming Framework
<b>DIEM</b>	Data in Emergencies
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FCS</b>	Food consumption score
<b>FFS</b>	Farmer Field School
<b>FSNAU</b>	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (Somalia)
<b>FUDEP</b>	<i>Asociación Civil Fomento del Desarrollo Popular</i> (the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
<b>GRADEH</b>	<i>Groupe d'Appui aux Activités de Développement en Haïti</i> (Haiti)
<b>ha</b>	hectare
<b>HNRP</b>	Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person
<b>IPC</b>	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
<b>IYD</b>	<i>Uluslararası İnsani Yardım Derneği</i> (the Syrian Arab Republic)
<b>LSD</b>	Lumpy skin disease
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>PSEA</b>	Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse
<b>RRM</b>	Rapid response mechanism
<b>SFERA</b>	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
<b>Sida</b>	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
<b>TAPYDEMI</b>	<i>Tèt Ansam pour Yon Demen Miyò</i> (Haiti)
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>VSLA</b>	Village Savings and Loans Association







## Foreword

Global hunger has risen for a fifth consecutive year, pushing us further from the goal of eradicating hunger by 2030. In 2023, 281.6 million people in 59 countries and territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity, an increase of nearly 24 million from the previous year, according to the 2024 Global Report on Food Crises. Over 705 000 people in Palestine, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Somalia and Mali were projected to be in Catastrophe (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification/*Cadre Harmonisé* Phase 5), double the number in 2022.

Conflict, economic shocks and climate extremes remained the primary drivers of food insecurity, with conflict being the most prevalent. It continued to disrupt the lives of millions, undermining their resilience and ability to cope. El Niño contributed to making 2023 the hottest year on record, by an alarmingly large margin, leading to more frequent climate shocks. Crops and rangelands were decimated, yields low and communities left vulnerable. Meanwhile, the lingering effects of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine had a lasting impact on the global agrifood system, while the cost-of-living crisis further strained families' purchasing power.

In 2023, the Government of Sweden, through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), contributed SEK 120 million (USD 13.08 million)<sup>a</sup> to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Thanks to this support, FAO implemented 13 projects from 1 January 2023 to 30 April 2024 focused on scaling up life-saving agricultural assistance and implementing anticipatory actions to assist communities affected by food crises across 11 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Haiti, Mali, Myanmar, the Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

FAO reached nearly 75 000 vulnerable households (465 000 people), including 30 000 (40 percent) headed by women, with a variety of context-specific, needs-based assistance. This included agricultural inputs, such as crop and vegetable seeds, tools, and fertilizers; cash assistance; training on good agricultural practices; as well as vital livestock and animal health support. This assistance enabled farmers on the frontlines of food crises to produce over 33 000 tonnes of food locally, feeding their families and communities and selling the surplus for income. Additionally, approximately USD 1.1 million in cash assistance helped families cover immediate food and basic needs, while engaging in their livelihood activities. Moreover, pastoral households received 2 430 tonnes of animal feed and nearly 322 000 livestock were vaccinated against common diseases, keeping the animals that families rely on for their livelihoods and nutrition healthy and productive. Anticipatory actions in areas at risk of drought also resulted in the renewal of 54 000 m<sup>3</sup> of water and addition of 545 000 L of rainwater storage, restoring and enhancing communities' access to water for livestock, agricultural and household use.

FAO delivered this critical assistance to at-risk communities thanks to our local partners. In the 11 countries where projects were implemented, FAO collaborated with over 45 implementing partners, including national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations and government institutions. Their efforts ensured that support reached those most vulnerable and

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<sup>a</sup> USD equivalent is based on United Nations operational rate of exchange when funds were received.

guaranteed accountability towards affected populations. FAO provided training to enhance their capacity and expertise in delivering quality assistance consistently, ensuring the sustainability of interventions.

Recognizing the crucial role of women as the bedrock of our communities, FAO prioritized their active participation and inclusion in projects. Consultations helped to identify their unique challenges and needs, and interventions were tailored to ensure these in project design and implementation contributing to their social and economic empowerment. Projects also prioritized households with displaced people, people living with disabilities, children under five years old, the elderly, and pregnant and lactating women acknowledging the additional challenges these groups face. FAO remains committed to ensuring that humanitarian assistance is inclusive, leaving no one behind.

Sida's long-standing partnership has enabled FAO to reach the people who feed the world. Together we supported vulnerable communities to improve their food security, nutrition, self-reliance and ensured they could engage in the livelihood activities they depend on despite the challenges.

Thank you for continuing to join our efforts to defeat hunger and malnutrition.



**Rein Paulsen**

Director, Office of Emergencies and Resilience  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations









## FAO's protection mechanisms



*Villagers have a group meeting in Kulundi, Jowhar, Hirshabelle, Somalia.*

### Participation of and accountability to affected people

FAO is committed to ensuring that accountability to people affected by disaster and conflict is at the core of its emergency policy and practice – from preparedness and the onset of an emergency through all phases of the programme cycle. FAO's approach to accountability to affected people (AAP) provides a framework for addressing and integrating issues in emergencies, such as gender equality, the inclusion of vulnerable populations, as well as protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

FAO ensured projects funded by Sida were responsive to the needs, priorities and rights of the target communities. Throughout implementation, the importance of transparent communication, adopting a participatory approach and feedback mechanisms were emphasized. To reach the most vulnerable communities, FAO developed selection criteria in consultation with affected communities, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups, including pregnant and lactating women, children under five years of age, people living with disabilities and the elderly.

FAO ensured accountability, feedback and complaint mechanisms were established, providing several channels to raise grievances and provide feedback. This included help desks at project locations, toll-free hotlines, complaints boxes and dedicated committees in target populations to review and respond to any complaints. FAO trained its implementing partners on PSEA and sensitized affected populations on their rights and the resources available to them, as well as the process for lodging complaints confidentially. By embedding AAP principles into activities, FAO fostered trust and enhanced the effectiveness of project activities.

Read more about FAO's commitment to AAP [here](#).



## Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

FAO has a 'zero tolerance' policy for sexual exploitation and abuse and for inaction on sexual exploitation and abuse by its personnel and by the employees of entities working in partnership with the Organization across all programmes, projects and activities, recognizing it as a fundamental breach of the human rights of those affected by it.

In complex humanitarian emergency contexts, the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse is higher, as power imbalances are exacerbated. Women, children, people living with disabilities, the elderly and other at-risk groups are disproportionately affected by sexual exploitation and abuse. Recognizing the vulnerability of target communities, FAO is committed to preventing any forms of sexual exploitation and abuse and to uphold the rights and dignity of project participants and communities. The PSEA policy is a critical aspect of FAO's safeguarding strategy.

FAO trained implementing partners and provided awareness sessions to strengthen PSEA capacity and understanding. These trainings covered the appropriate conduct expected from staff, identification of risks and procedures for reporting concerns or incidences. Project participants and communities were also sensitized to gender-based violence. FAO likewise provided a hotline number to report incidences of sexual exploitation and abuse in a discreet and confidential manner, promptly responding to all allegations, incidents or concerns.

Thanks to the proactive approach taken through the projects, the likelihood of sexual exploitation and abuse occurring was significantly reduced. FAO's PSEA policy ensured the protection of vulnerable populations, building the trust of project participants and communities and creating a safe and collaborative environment for project activities to be carried out.

Read more about FAO's commitment to PSEA and the protection of project beneficiaries and communities [here](#).

## Gender equality



*A project participant holds the agricultural inputs she received in Jariirey, Bulburte, Somalia.*

Disasters and conflict continue to disproportionately affect populations, exacerbating existing gender inequalities and creating new vulnerabilities for women, girls, men and boys. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable due to existing gender inequalities, as they are faced with challenges such as heightened risk of gender-based violence, limited access to essential resources and a lack of decision-making power.

Gender equality is essential to achieving FAO's mandate of a world free from hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The Organization recognizes that persisting inequalities between women and men are a major obstacle to agricultural and rural development and that eliminating these disparities is essential to building sustainable and inclusive food systems and resilient and peaceful societies.

Women are key players in agrifood systems, significantly contributing to food security and nutrition in numerous ways. Women make up over 43 percent of the agricultural workforce and are also often in charge of natural resource management in their roles as farmers, fishers and foresters. Likewise, rural women are primarily responsible for domestic and care work at the household and community level. Therefore, empowering women with the rights, resources and education they need leads to more resilient and productive agrifood systems, enhancing the food security and nutrition of vulnerable communities.

FAO ensured gender mainstreaming and specifically targeted women in all project activities. Projects funded by Sida developed gender-sensitive plans and strategies to advance women's rights, ensuring women had an equal voice and decision-making power, and their specific needs and perspectives were considered. To ensure inclusion, female staff were employed to reach eligible women in the most remote areas. Participating communities were sensitized on gender equality, with FAO and its implementing partners trained on protection and PSEA. Likewise, women were made aware of the FAO accountability system and provided with the FAO hotline to report concerns or incidences of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Thanks to the Sida-funded projects, women had access to resources, protection and opportunities to rebuild and transform their lives. Women were empowered to become leaders within their communities and developed new skills to enhance their economic and social independence, strengthening the resilience and development of their communities.

Read more about FAO's commitment to gender equality and strengthening women's rights [here](#).

## Sida's 2023 contribution to FAO's SFERA

Sida regularly contributes to FAO's Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA). SFERA is essential to FAO's continued ability to provide rapid, high-impact emergency assistance to the most vulnerable populations affected by disasters. It enables FAO to lead coordination efforts for a harmonized and effective response in the agriculture, food security and nutrition sectors and contribute to the formulation of response and resilience programmes that address the priority needs of affected populations. SFERA plays a critical role in strengthening country office operational and preparedness capacities and enables the Organization to carry out its activities in Level 3 emergencies.

SFERA has three components:

- a programme component, which pools resources in support of a programme framework for large-scale emergencies and strategically complements ongoing programmes, including the Agricultural Inputs Response Capacity (AIRC) window as well as the Anticipatory Action (AA) window;
- a working capital component to advance funds once a resource partner's commitment is secured toward the immediate procurement of inputs to protect livelihoods, restart agricultural activities or contribute to an immediate response to a crisis; and
- a revolving fund component to support FAO's involvement in needs assessment, programme development, early establishment and reinforcement of emergency country team capacities, Level 3 (scale-up) emergency preparedness and response activities.

### SFERA's programme component

In 2023, Sida's contribution to SFERA supported responses in Bangladesh, Haiti, Myanmar, Nigeria, Syria, Türkiye and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Through these projects (the outcomes of which are detailed further in the report), Sida continued to support SFERA specifically through the programme component, which includes the AIRC and AA windows. The AIRC window supports rapid response by channelling pooled funds towards the immediate procurement and delivery of time-critical inputs. The AA window enables FAO to identify potential threats and act in advance to mitigate the impacts, reduce losses and safeguard livelihoods. The programmatic approach enables operations to adapt as the situation changes, streamlining activities to ensure the most appropriate assistance reaches affected populations sooner.

### SFERA's working capital component

Sida has not historically funded this component.

### SFERA's revolving funds component

Sida did not fund the revolving funds component in 2023.

## Project reports

The following section reports on the achievements at both the programmatic and project levels demonstrating how projects carried out in the same country worked in synchronicity to realize organizational strategic objectives and country-specific priorities, as well as the outcomes set in the results frameworks.

Reporting period: 1 January 2023– 30 April 2024

Country	FAO reference	Start date	End date
Afghanistan	OSRO/AFG/128/SWE	1 January 2023	31 December 2023
Bangladesh	OSRO/BGD/095/SWE	1 January 2023	30 April 2024
Haiti	OSRO/HAI/047/SWE	1 January 2023	31 March 2024
Mali	OSRO/MLI/072/SWE	1 January 2023	31 March 2024
Myanmar	OSRO/MYA/034/SWE	1 January 2023	29 February 2024
Niger	OSRO/NER/075/SWE	1 January 2023	31 March 2024
Nigeria	OSRO/NIR/076/SWE	1 January 2023	31 March 2024
Somalia	OSRO/SOM/015/SWE	1 January 2023	31 March 2024
	OSRO/SOM/016/SWE	1 January 2023	31 March 2024
Syrian Arab Republic	OSRO/SYR/034/SWE	1 January 2023	31 December 2023
	OSRO/SYR/035/SWE	1 January 2023	31 March 2024
Türkiye	OSRO/TUR/009/SWE	1 January 2023	31 March 2024
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	OSRO/VEN/027/SWE	1 January 2023	29 February 2024



# Afghanistan

## Project overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Funds provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/AFG/128/SWE	30 million	2 906 695	N/A

The project was designed in accordance with Outcome 4 of the Country Programming Framework (CPF), “Supporting vulnerable farmers for improved food security and nutrition, resilience and emergency response to natural and man-made disasters and climate change” and Output 4.3, “Delivery of emergency responses for farming and livelihoods support”. The project also directly contributed to the achievements of Sustainable Development Goals 1.5, “by 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”, as well as supported the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031. The project also contributed to the objective of FAO’s component of the 2023 Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) to reach 9 million people with emergency assistance, which FAO exceeded by reaching approximately 11 million people with humanitarian assistance that year.

The project was complemented by various other funding sources and organizations, including the Governments of New Zealand and Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Asian Development Bank, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (through its Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance), the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, and the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan. This collaboration resulted in significant benefits in key areas through synergistic effects of interventions, including: (i) geographical targeting and clustering; (ii) enhancing efficiency in training of trainer’s interventions; (iii) establishment of shared grievance mechanisms; (iv) application of uniform COVID-19 safety guidelines; and (v) leveraging existing delivery systems.

### OSRO/AFG/128/SWE | Emergency livelihood assistance to safeguard food security and local food production of the most vulnerable rural families in Afghanistan

#### Affected populations targeting and selection

The project was implemented in three provinces of Afghanistan (Faryab, Samangan and Sar-e Pul) which were projected to be in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (Emergency) between November 2022 and March 2023 according to the October 2022 IPC report<sup>2</sup>. FAO based its geographic targeting on specific criteria and sources of information, including analysis of the impacts of recent shocks, food insecurity, the status of agricultural livelihoods, agroecological and livelihood zones, as well as in consideration of the number of people in need as calculated by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster and FAO’s targeting under the HNRP. To ensure the most vulnerable communities are reached, selection of project locations is based on criteria underpinned by risk

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156270/?iso3=AFG#:~:text=In%20September%20and%20October%202022,IPC%20Phase%203\)%20food%20insecurity.](https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156270/?iso3=AFG#:~:text=In%20September%20and%20October%202022,IPC%20Phase%203)%20food%20insecurity.)

exposure, lack of coping capacities, needs and gaps that enhance the value of benefits from assistance packages.

FAO, in collaboration with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, developed vulnerability-based beneficiary selection criteria for emergency assistance packages, incorporating inputs from various stakeholders such as affected communities, *shuras* and female community members. This takes into consideration food insecurity indicators (food consumption score [FCS], reduced coping strategy index), households headed by women, individuals with disabilities or elderly members, the impact of shocks, the extent of adoption of coping mechanisms, access to resources, possession of productive assets (marginal/subsistence), land ownership, recent receipt of humanitarian aid, possession of valid identification documents (with exceptions granted on the basis of discussions with village elders), willingness to engage in technical training subsequent to receiving assistance, and commitment to refraining from selling the provided inputs, among others.

To design opportunities for the participation of marginalized groups, FAO, together with implementing partners and in consultation with community leaders and elders, conducted community profile assessments through focus group discussions. During the inception phase, community-based committees for men and women were formed to identify beneficiaries as per FAO vulnerability and eligibility criteria. In addition, female colleagues from the project team and implementing partners participated in the selection process to proactively reach out to eligible women for inclusion as direct beneficiaries.

Following these processes, 13 161 vulnerable households were selected to benefit from the Sida-funded project, including 1 106 women-headed households (8.4 percent of the total) using FAO-developed questionnaires in the Kobo toolbox. The beneficiary selection process was further verified through a baseline beneficiary verification survey conducted by an FAO-contracted independent third-party monitoring agency and real-time monitoring conducted by FAO-contracted field monitoring associates in all project districts.

FAO signed Letters of Agreement with three implementing partners (ActionAid Afghanistan in Faryab province, Norwegian Afghanistan Committee in Samangan province and Partners in Revitalization and Building in Sar-e Pul province) selected through a competitive process using FAO's standard selection criteria, which included past performance in similar partnerships with FAO, access and presence in the project area, robust governance and financial management systems, appropriate technical and human resource capacities and performance in the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in Afghanistan. The implementing partners were responsible for mobilizing and selecting communities, conducting the beneficiary profile survey, distributing inputs and providing technical training to beneficiaries.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

To prevent protection risks and ensure project interventions align with local needs and context without causing harm to beneficiaries, protection and AAP were integrated from the project's inception. This involved extensive consultations with community-based committees, community leaders, elders, local *shuras* and the community itself, including women. An early warning questionnaire was developed and updated with community input to identify and mitigate protection risks and avoid any negative impacts.

FAO formulated key PSEA awareness messages for all personnel and implementing partners and conducted dedicated capacity building sessions on PSEA, which partners cascade down to the beneficiaries in separate sessions during implementation, including information on FAO's zero tolerance to sexual exploitation and abuse as well as reporting mechanisms comprising how to contact PSEA focal points. All FAO employees and implementing partners have an obligation to report in good faith any complaints or reasonable concerns of sexual exploitation and abuse as per the PSEA policy with no retaliation.

Furthermore, FAO has produced a Note on Standard PSEA Communication to Communities, which is used by FAO staff, implementing partners and the media while broadcasting FAO Public Service Announcements. Additionally, PSEA focal points are members of the PSEA Network in Afghanistan, which is a platform where United Nations (UN) agencies and international and national NGOs share best practices, tools and PSEA-related information.

FAO has an established reactive and proactive feedback and complaint mechanism. Reactive mechanisms include eight toll-free lines in each of FAO's eight regional offices, emails and complaint boxes that are set up in distribution centres. In addition, FAO has a partnership with Awaaz Afghanistan's Interagency Call Centre. Proactive feedback mechanisms include focus group discussions, independent post-distribution monitoring, information/help desks, one-on-one sessions during field monitoring, and satisfaction surveys. These accountability initiatives perform the role of oversight and power balance between communities and implementing partners. Sensitive complaints such as fraud, corruption and PSEA are reported directly to the FAO Representative through a triage process under the Compliance Unit.

A total of 32 cases comprised of complaint, feedback, information and assistance requests were received from the targeted area of this project through different channels of the complaints and feedback mechanism and Awaaz Afghanistan. These were all resolved in a timely manner.

Table 1. Detailed information related to cases received

Case type	Cases subtype	Number of cases	Cases status
Complaint	Late distribution	5	Closed
	Allegation for inclusion and exclusion error	2	Closed
Feedback	Positive feedback	10	Closed
Request for assistance	Request for additional support	15	Closed
<b>Total</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>Closed</b>

## Gender equality

Women face multiple barriers to accessing assistance, ranging from adverse cultural and societal norms to current restrictions on their participation, resulting in their exclusion. Additional challenges include low literacy, stereotypical gender roles and lack of participation in decision-making, further increasing gender inequalities and undermining efforts for women's empowerment. The project focused on the inclusion of women right from inception, adopting a three-tier approach to access women-headed households at grassroots level. Targeting began with the enlistment of women-headed households from local committees, which were further verified by FAO field staff on a

random basis. Prioritization was ensured through FAO’s pre-defined, gender-sensitive beneficiary selection criteria, and about 8.4 percent of all beneficiaries were women-headed households.

Restrictions on female staff working for humanitarian organizations continue to pose a challenge for vulnerable women’s access to project services across the country. FAO and its implementing partners have endeavoured to find local solutions to circumvent the ban, such as: (i) involving local influential people and community facilitators to ensure female beneficiaries are reached; (ii) female staff members from implementing partners conducting field visits directly from home, accompanied by their *mahram*, bypassing the need to go through the implementing partner office; (iii) conducting surveys with female beneficiaries by implementing partners in the presence of their *mahram*; (iv) training male family members through male implementing partner staff in cases where female staff could not provide training, who would share the information with female family members; (v) providing the option for female beneficiaries to attend distributions with their *mahram* or participate in a separate distribution day for women.

### Key achievements, coordination and deviations

**Outcome: Food security and nutrition of 10 050 households is improved through increased availability of and access to food by restoring subsistence wheat production capacity and protecting livestock-based livelihoods through the distribution of locally produced quality inputs, income support and technical trainings**

The project was designed to deliver essential livelihood- and life-saving assistance to 10 050 households (6 000 households with wheat cultivation packages and 4 050 households with livestock protection packages). However, due to cost savings made in the bulk procurement of crop and livestock inputs and utilization of the budget originally earmarked for vaccines (omitted owing to their local unavailability and limited timeframe to import), the project was able to support an additional 3 111 households with concentrated animal feed and technical training. The project reached a total of 13 161 households (of whom 1 106 were headed by women). This is about 105 253 people, of whom 52 314 women. This final number of individuals directly benefitting from the project was derived from an analysis of data gathered through the beneficiary profile survey. The gender-disaggregated data is based on the same survey conducted by implementing partners gathering actual household data rather than using national averages.

Table 2. Total households and people reached disaggregated by gender

Component	Total households reached	Male-headed	Women-headed	Total people reached	Male	Female
Wheat	6 000	5 689	311	48 048	24 410	23 638
Livestock	7 161	6 366	795	57 205	28 529	28 676
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 161</b>	<b>12 055</b>	<b>1 106</b>	<b>105 253</b>	<b>52 939</b>	<b>52 314</b>

Table 3. Summary of districts, total households and women-headed households reached

Season	Region	Province	District	Total households reached	Women-headed households
2023	North	Faryab	Almar	1 000	97
			Gurziwan	1 000	140
			Khani Charbagh	1 050	265
			Kohistan	1 000	48
		Samangan	Aybak	1 300	88
			Dara-e-Suf Bala	1 300	62
			Dara-e-Suf Payin	500	33
			Feroz Nakhshir	1 000	96
			Hazrat-e-Sultan	300	19
			Khuram Wa Sarbagh	300	4
		Sar-e-Pul	Balkhab	1 300	83
			Gosfandi	1 378	66
			Kohistanat	2	54
			Sangcharak	1 333	103
<b>Total</b>			<b>13 161</b>	<b>1 106</b>	

**Output 1. Support to the local production of high-quality wheat is continued through the provision of an emergency wheat cultivation package**

The project supported 6 000 households (of whom 311 women-headed) with wheat cultivation packages (or about 48 048 people, of whom 23 638 women). Each household received 50 kg of certified wheat seeds, and 50 kg of diammonium phosphate and 50 kg of urea fertilizers, as well as training on good agricultural practices. Themes included appropriate methods of sowing and seed rates, irrigation requirements and timing, fertilizer application at different crop growth stages, harvesting, seed selection and seed storage, as well as information on humanitarian principles, such as AAP, PSEA and COVID-19 safe practices and prevention measures.

Table 4. Quantity of inputs distributed (wheat cultivation package)

Type of input	Quantity of input (kg/household)	Number of households	Total quantity distributed (tonnes)
Wheat seeds	50	6 000	300
Diammonium phosphate fertilizer	50	6 000	300
Urea fertilizer	50	6 000	300

According to preliminary analysis of the post-distribution monitoring survey for wheat: (i) agriculture is the main livelihood of all households; (ii) 70.5 percent of households reported that the physical quality of the seed was good, 72.2 percent reported that the physical quality of urea was good, and 61.9 percent reported that the physical quality of the diammonium phosphate fertilizer was good; and (iii) 88.1 percent of all targeted households cultivated the seeds. Of those who did not cultivate the seeds (11.9 percent), 88.5 percent reported that they stored the seeds for the next season.



## Output 2. Support to 4 050 marginal herding households (28 350 people) impacted by multiple shocks is enhanced through an emergency livestock protection package (Cash+ livestock)

Due to cost savings in the bulk procurement of crop and livestock inputs and the utilization of the budget originally earmarked for vaccines (omitted due to local unavailability and limited timeframe to import), the project prioritized providing urgently needed livestock feed to reach a larger number of communities. A total of 7 161 households were reached with livestock protection packages (of whom 795 women-headed), or about 57 205 people (of whom 28 676 women), with 3 111 households each receiving 200 kg of concentrated animal feed and 4 050 households each receiving 200 kg of concentrated animal feed, 6 kg of mineral blocks, 3 kg of fodder crop seed, administration of deworming medicine to their 23 410 small and large ruminants (0.2 L/household or 10 ml/small ruminant and 75 ml/large ruminant) and a one-time unconditional cash transfer of USD 96.

All 7 161 households received technical training on good livestock management practices, including essential feeding regimes, application of additional feed, livestock proper shed and hygiene management, sustainable grazing management, drought mitigation techniques, animal health measures and basic veterinary practices, as well as information on humanitarian principles such as AAP, PSEA and COVID-19 safe practices and prevention measures.

Table 5. Quantity of inputs distributed (livestock protection package)

Type of input	Quantity of input per household	Number of households	Total quantity distributed
Animal feed	200 kg	7 161	1 432.2 tonnes
Fodder crop seed	3 kg	4 050	12.15 tonnes
Mineral blocks	6 kg	4 050	24.3 tonnes
Deworming medicine	0.2 L	4 050	810 L
Unconditional cash transfer	USD 96	4 050	USD 388 800

## Impact and sustainability

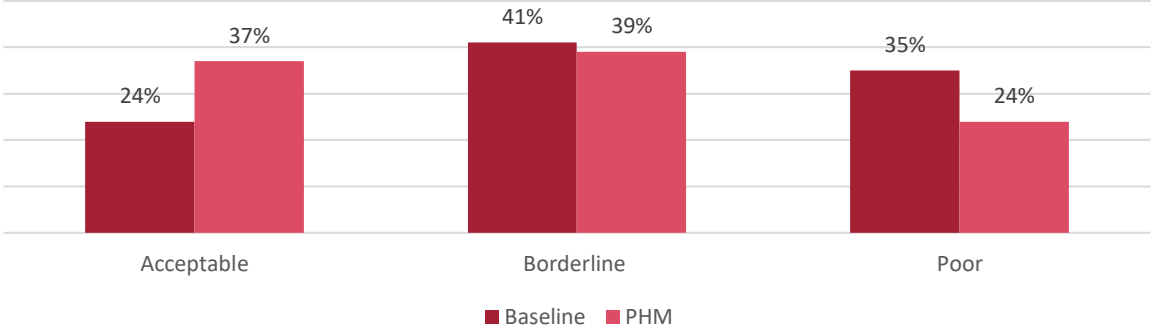
### Impact

Wheat cultivation packages: The results of the post-harvest monitoring survey for wheat cultivation packages are currently pending. However, findings from post-harvest monitoring of a similar project funded by the Asian Development Bank may be indicative. The survey, conducted from 23 July to 27 August 2023, highlights that three-quarters of farmers acknowledged the effectiveness of FAO's certified seeds and fertilizers in improving wheat production. Project beneficiaries achieved an average yield of 661 kg/*jerib* on irrigated land, whereas local seeds yielded 520 kg/*jerib* on irrigated land (an increase of 27.1 percent). According to the perception of the sampled beneficiaries, the wheat harvested was deemed sufficient for about 9.4 months of household consumption. In addition, farmers reported an average production of 1 087 kg of straw/*jerib* (a valuable byproduct used as animal fodder, construction material, etc.). On average, beneficiaries earned an income of AFN 4 458 (USD 52.69<sup>3</sup>) from selling surplus wheat or straw.

<sup>3</sup> Based on United Nations Operational Rates of Exchange as of 15 August 2023.

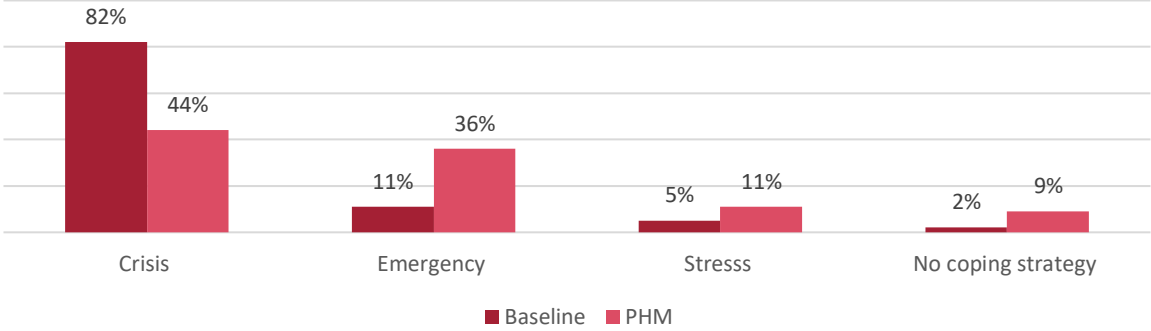
The wheat intervention had a significant impact on beneficiaries, with the number of people with an acceptable FCS increasing from 24 percent at baseline to 37 percent at endline, indicating an improvement in the food security situation.

Figure 1. FCS of households at baseline and post-harvest monitoring



Similarly, there was observed improvement in the livelihood coping strategy index among beneficiaries when comparing the baseline and post-harvest monitoring data. The percentage of beneficiaries who adopted stress or no coping strategies increased from 7 to 20 percent. Despite these improvements, a significant proportion of project beneficiaries still rely on crisis and emergency coping strategies, indicating a need for further support.

Figure 2. Livelihood coping strategy index at baseline and post-harvest monitoring



Livestock protection packages: According to the outcome monitoring survey for livestock protection packages, the concentrated animal feed, on average, was adequate for 9.4 animals. The duration for which the feed remained sufficient was analysed, revealing that, on average, it lasted for 2.2 months. The results demonstrated that 99.6 percent of households rated the effects of the animal feed as good and very good (51.2 percent and 48.4 percent, respectively). Weight gain among the animals was evident, with 96.0 percent of households reporting an increase in the weight of their animals after consuming the concentrated animal feed. Moreover, the survey emphasized the feed's influence on livestock production, with about 82 percent of households observing an increase in their livestock production after consuming the feed. Insights from the data shed light on the diverse purposes for animal production. This included household consumption as reported by 93.2 percent of the surveyed households and selling dairy products in the market reported by 12.1 percent.

## Sustainability

Through its comprehensive approach, the project fostered sustainability by actively involving local stakeholders, building their capacities, and promoting environmentally friendly and economically viable practices. Notably, the project directly involved farmers and communities in all stages, from target identification to planning and implementation processes. By incorporating the input and participation of these key stakeholders, the project ensured their ownership and commitment. To effectively implement the project interventions in the targeted villages, implementing partners were identified and selected and their capacity developed through a training of trainer's approach. The skills and knowledge acquired by the staff were then transferred to the target beneficiaries, ensuring the widespread dissemination of good agricultural and livestock management practices.

## Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

### Challenges

The decree issued on 24 December 2022 by the de facto authorities, which was later extended on 3 April 2023, prohibited Afghan women from working for international and national NGOs and UN agencies. These measures had a detrimental effect on project operations, particularly on activities involving women-to-women interactions, such as beneficiary selection, distribution, and trainings. However, local solutions were implemented to address the challenges, such as carrying out surveys with female beneficiaries in the presence of their *mahram* and giving the option to participate in separate distribution days exclusively for women.

Delays were faced in the provision of livestock packages. While the deworming medication was successfully delivered to the designated premises of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee, officials from the Directorate of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock for Faryab province determined the administration of the medicine during the winter season was not ideal and was therefore postponed to March 2024. Challenges arose during the procurement of mineral blocks, as the technical evaluation uncovered non-compliance with established standards. As a result, a second round of testing was conducted on a sample. Additionally, due to insufficient availability of domestic fodder crop seeds, these had to be imported; due to challenges faced by the supplier during transit at the Karachi and Turkham borders with Pakistan, delays were faced in the delivery and subsequent distribution of the seeds. Moreover, vaccines for livestock diseases like foot-and-mouth disease, anthrax, peste des petits ruminants and enterotoxaemia were unavailable in the country. Due to the limited project timeframe and anticipated delays associated with importing vaccines, FAO made the decision to omit this activity and prioritize the available budget to reach a larger number of communities with urgently needed feed.

### Lessons learned

Some good practices of the project included providing training and capacity building opportunities to beneficiaries, which was key to maximizing the impact of project inputs and empowering beneficiaries with knowledge and skills enabling them to utilize the input packages effectively. Another good practice was actively involving target communities in the project implementation process, as engaging community leaders and members, and beneficiaries in decision-making, planning and distribution activities fosters ownership and increases the likelihood of successful outcomes. It also helps ensure that the packages meet the specific needs and preferences of the communities.



*Faizullah feeds his livestock, Almar district, Faryab province.*

Faizullah, a 50-year-old livestock owner and father of 15 in Bukhari Qala, a small village of Almar District in Faryab province, was one of the beneficiaries of the project. During the long drought that plagued northern Afghanistan for several years, pasture for his animals dried up, posing a grave threat to the well-being of his cattle. He had to sell one of his cows to generate some income, with which he purchased feed from the local market for his remaining livestock.

FAO selected Faizullah among 4 050 livestock owners in the region who were experiencing food insecurity. He received a livestock protection package consisting of 200 kg of concentrated animal feed, 3 kg of fodder crop seeds and 0.2 L of deworming medicine, as well as training on livestock management and how to plant and harvest the fodder crop.

An investment of USD 200 thus allowed Faizullah to continue raising livestock for an entire year. In addition, his household received USD 96 in cash assistance from the same Sida-funded project to cover some of his family's basic needs. He can also earn further income by selling milk; the use of concentrated animal feed and training on animal husbandry allowed Faizullah to nearly double the production of milk, from 7 to 12 L/day, adding AFN 5 250 (about USD 73) to his monthly income.

“Thanks to this assistance I don’t need to sell my remaining animals,” said Faizullah. Indeed, for many farmers the possibility to maintain their fields, animals and way of life is one of the main driving forces helping them survive the turbulent times Afghanistan is experiencing.

[Link to the full story here.](#)

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Food security and nutritional status of vulnerable smallholder farming and herding households in Afghanistan is improved.	Number of households with improved food security and nutrition <i>(Up to 7% of households headed by women/elderly/persons with disability)</i>	0	10 050 households (70 350 people)	13 161 households (105 253 people), of whom 1 106 women-headed households (8.4%)
<b>Outcome:</b> Food security and nutrition of 10 100 households is improved through increased availability of and access to food by restoring subsistence wheat production capacity and protecting livestock-based livelihoods through the distribution of locally produced quality inputs, income support and technical trainings	Number of vulnerable households with supported livelihoods <i>(Up to 7% of households headed by women/elderly/persons with disability)</i>	0	10 050 households (70 350 people)	13 161 households (105 253 people), of whom 1 106 were women-headed households (8.4%)
<b>Output 1.</b> Support to the local production of high-quality wheat is continued through the provision of an emergency wheat cultivation package	Number of vulnerable households receiving winter wheat cultivation packages and technical trainings <i>(up to 5% of households headed by women/elderly/persons with disability)</i>	0	6 000 households (42 000 people)	6 000 households (48 048 people), of whom 311 were women-headed households (5.18%)
<b>Output 2.</b> Support to 4 050 marginal herding households (28 350 people) impacted by multiple shocks is enhanced through an emergency livestock protection package (Cash+ livestock)	Number of vulnerable households benefitting from livestock protection packages <i>(up to 5% of households headed by women/elderly/persons with disability)</i>	0	7 161 households (4 050 households initial target and 3 111 additional households)	7 161 households (57 205 people), of whom 795 were women-headed households (11.1%)

# Bangladesh

## Programmatic overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Fund provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/BGD/095/SWE	3 154 298	325 521	AIRC

The project directly contributed to Better Life, Priority Area 3, “Agriculture and food emergencies” under FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022–2031 by enhancing the resilience of vulnerable Rohingya households to food and climactic shocks. It also aligned with the Bangladesh Country Programming Framework 2022–2026 Pillar 2, “Healthy, safe, and nutritious food for all” by enabling refugee communities to produce their own food, thereby improving their food security and nutrition sustainably. The project also prioritized women-headed households and those with vulnerable members, further reinforcing equitable human development and well-being as outlined in the framework.

FAO collaborated with other UN agencies and local NGOs, including the UN Population Fund, BRAC and Mukti to identify beneficiary households. The project complimented the interventions of other UN agencies and partners by providing households with an additional source of food on top of the regular food rations delivered.

## OSRO/BGD/095/SWE | Increasing food security in Rohingya communities in Cox`s Bazar, Bangladesh

### Affected-populations targeting and selection

Through the food security sector and its partners, FAO identified 15 000 out of 20 000 households for assistance. The Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) conducted a rapid assessment through door-to-door interviews to evaluate beneficiary households' capacity and willingness to undergo homestead gardening training and receive seeds and inputs for vegetable cultivation. Following the rapid assessment, the data quality was checked to ensure that the 15 000 households met at least one of the five selection criteria.

Table 6. Distribution of beneficiary households according to selection criteria

Selection criteria	Percentage of beneficiary households (out of 15 000 households)
Woman-headed households	25%
Household with pregnant woman	18%
Household with lactating mother	49%
Household with children under five years	79%
Household with person with disability	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



The selection criteria prioritized Rohingya households most vulnerable to the impacts of cyclones, fires, inter-group conflicts, and food ration cuts.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

FAO operates a hotline number to receive complaints and feedback from project beneficiaries regarding FAO's interventions and PSEA-related issues. Complaints received through the hotline are logged into a database and then investigated and addressed or resolved following the standard operating procedure on PSEA developed by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, which can be accessed [here](#). All calls and complaints are anonymous unless the complainant waives anonymity.

Thirty CNRS field associates received an orientation on the complaint and feedback response mechanism and the six core principles of PSEA from FAO's designated AAP and PSEA focal points before being deployed to the field. Before starting each distribution event, beneficiaries were briefed on the complaints, feedback and PSEA mechanisms, with the hotline number shared with beneficiaries and displayed prominently on the event banner. During the project period, FAO received one call from a project beneficiary seeking information about the distribution centre location who was immediately provided with the information. FAO followed up with the concerned beneficiary, who confirmed receipt of the distributed items.

### Gender equality

The project prioritized women during the selection process and ensured their participation during training and distribution events. The beneficiary selection criteria mainly targeted women-headed households, households with pregnant and lactating women, households with children under five years old, and those with disabilities. Approximately 90 percent of beneficiary households (13 562 out of 15 000) were headed by women. Women actively participated in homestead gardening training, with 98 percent successfully applying what they learned from the training, according to FAO's 2024 post-distribution monitoring survey.

### Key achievements, coordination and deviations

#### Output 1. 15 000 Rohingya households are provided with vegetable seeds and microgardening kits

By mobilizing the food security sector partners, the project quickly identified 15 000 beneficiary households (75 000 people), most of whom were not receiving similar support. FAO and CNRS ensured the timely distribution of vegetable seeds (25 g of cucumber, eggplant, bitter gourd, and sweet gourd; 20 g of country bean; 10 g of bottle gourd and sweet gourd; and 5 g of tomato seeds per household) and microgardening kits (composed of ten pieces of bamboo slats/sticks, four sack bags, 1 kg jute rope, and 10 kg of vermicompost per household). Despite logistical challenges, the project achieved a 100 percent distribution rate across all beneficiary households, underscoring effective planning and collaboration with local authorities and community leaders.

#### Output 2. 15 000 individuals are trained in homestead gardening

Out of 15 000 beneficiaries, 13 562 women were trained in sustainable gardening practices. Coordination among FAO, CNRS, and the food security sector ensured no overlaps in selecting target

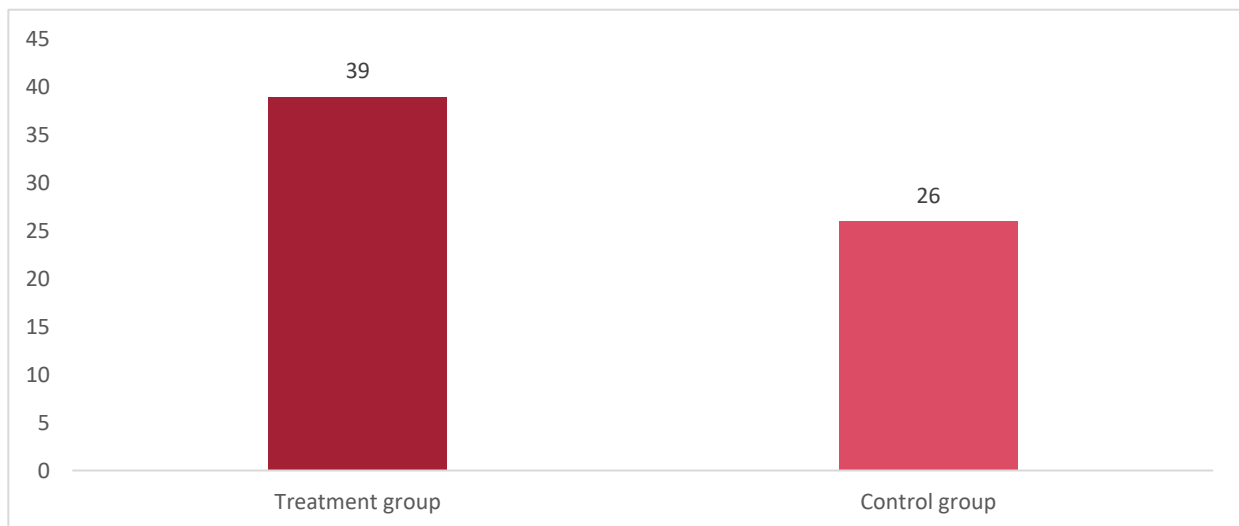
blocks, sub-blocks, and project participants. The project encountered no significant deviations, demonstrating robust planning and execution that upheld the project's objectives and timelines.

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

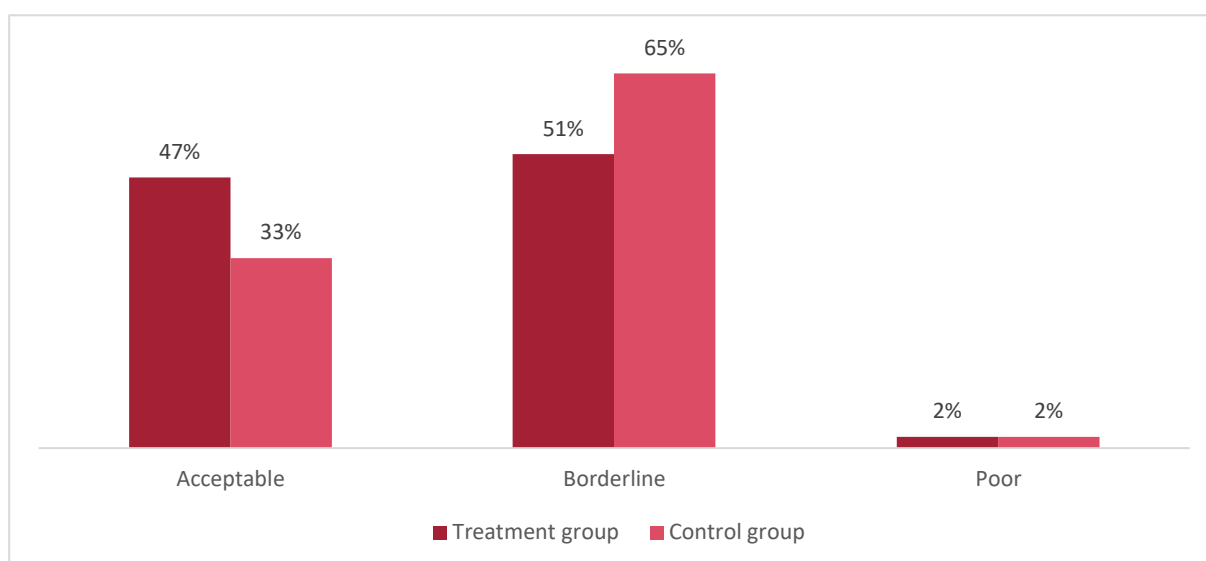
FAO conducted a Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis with 500 samples (93 percent confidence interval and 4 percent precision) to estimate project-supported households' resilience capacity and food security. About 400 households that did not receive homestead gardening support were also surveyed as the control group. Based on the analysis, households that received support for homestead gardening from the project had a higher resilience score (39) than the control group (26).

Figure 3. Resilience capacity score, disaggregated by treatment and control group



Homestead gardening contributes to food security among the Rohingyas by supplementing the food rations they receive. Due to funding shortfalls, the food ration provided by other UN agencies and partners of USD 12 per person per month was reduced to USD 10 per person per month. Around 48 percent of project-supported households actively practicing homestead gardening have an acceptable food consumption status, compared to only 33 percent of those not practicing homestead gardening.

Figure 4. Food security status of Rohingya households



With the inputs and training provided by the project, each beneficiary household produced an average of 60 kg of vegetables, with 45 kg consumed and 15 kg sold in the camp market, resulting in an average economic benefit of USD 17 per household. The majority of households applied improved cultivation techniques such as bed planting (76 percent), sack planting (60 percent), vertical growing (16 percent), and trellis growing (15 percent). Approximately 86 percent of the supported households used preventive measures to protect their plants from insects, and 95 percent applied proper care and maintenance practices, including fertilizing, watering, and regular weeding. Additionally, 96 percent of households expressed satisfaction with the seed quality, while 95 percent were satisfied with the plant growth and germination of the seeds.

### Sustainability

FAO engaged a local organization, CNRS, to implement the project inside the Rohingya camp and provided close supervision and monitoring. Using FAO's guidelines on homestead gardening, CNRS trained and guided beneficiaries on improved cultivation techniques. This approach achieved the project's objectives and supported CNRS in enhancing their knowledge of homestead gardening and project management.

Rohingya community leaders were actively involved in distributing inputs and managing training and distribution events. Women were prioritized in the selection of beneficiaries, training, and input distribution. Engaging community leaders fostered local leadership and accountability within the Rohingya community and increasing women's participation built confidence and ownership among them. As a result, around 57 percent of female beneficiaries reported, during the post-distribution monitoring, that they now make critical family decisions alongside their male counterparts.

To ensure the intervention's sustainability, FAO, through CNRS and community leaders, provided training on seed production techniques to ensure continued gains from the project. If beneficiaries apply these seed production techniques, they can continuously cultivate vegetables for their own consumption and potentially earn an income.

## Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

While political instability, natural disasters, and violent breakdowns between communities were initially identified to have a potentially moderate impact on the project's implementation timeline, these risks were successfully mitigated through effective contingency planning, monitoring, and early coordination with implementing partners and other relevant agencies. However, there were some delays in the procurement and delivery of inputs and materials due to supplier issues, such as quality noncompliance, delivery and distribution. The team documented these issues to put quality checks in place before delivery and ensure orders are placed in a timely earlier. The involvement of community leaders from the camps as volunteers to help manage the crowd during distribution events, close coordination with the Camp-in-Charges (designated camp focal points from the Government of Bangladesh) and security focal points during distribution and training events was effective in maintaining orderly, safe and secure activities.

The project team also devised a system to help verify the identity and confirm the enlistment of beneficiaries when they cannot physically attend a distribution event. Beneficiaries were given a token before the scheduled distribution day, which a family member could bring to the distribution site to collect the entitlements on their behalf. Additionally, FAO provided printed muster rolls with personally identifiable information to ensure each listed beneficiary received their entitlements.



*Left: A Rohingya beneficiary looks after their family's homestead garden in one of the camps in Cox's Bazar; right: Vegetables cultivated in a Rohingya beneficiary's household, despite limited available space inside the camps.*

Boratun Nesa and her husband fled from Myanmar on 22 August 2017, leaving behind their home and tragically losing their children in the chaos. Their journey to safety included a treacherous crossing of the Naf River before eventually finding refuge across the border in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Adjusting to life in the camps was not easy for Boratun. Like many Rohingya refugees, Boratun did not have the resources needed to transform her and her husband's meagre plot of land into a productive one. Access to clean water was (and is) a challenge, and the general decrease in humanitarian aid resulted in food ration cuts that threatened food security and nutrition in the camps. Boratun's struggles were further compounded by the devastating impact of Cyclone Mocha in May 2023, which significantly affected their lives and livelihoods.

Under the project, Boratun's household was one of 15 000 Rohingya households who received support to help them cultivate their own food in a limited space. With a focus on women-headed households, project participants like Boratun received seeds, fertilizers, tools, and gardening materials, as well as training on relevant home gardening techniques to maximize productivity and information on nutritious vegetable varieties and consumption methods to meet their nutritional needs.

Despite the limited space and water scarcity, Boratun and her husband started growing country beans, sweet gourds, cucumbers, and eggplants. With their humble garden plot flourishing, the couple has a steady source of nutritious food and Boratun even shared her vegetable harvest with neighbours, fostering a sense of community and generating a small income from selling her surplus vegetables.

Boratun's story is a testament to how, even with minimal help, significant results can be achieved when individuals are determined to fully utilize the project's support. Through projects like this, FAO continues to empower displaced communities, equipping them with the skills and tools they need to rebuild their lives and sow the seeds of hope.



## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved	Reason for variance
<b>Impact:</b> Increased resilience capacity of households to cope with food and climatic shocks	Average resilience capacity score increased	41	43	39	The overall funding shortfall for the Rohingya Response <sup>4</sup> , as well as two cyclones, repeated fire incidents, and inter-group armed conflict adversely impacted the resilience capacity of Rohingya households.
<b>Outcome:</b> Food security among host and Rohingya communities improved	Percentage of households from Rohingya community with acceptable food consumption status	0	55%	47%	Due to funding shortfall, the World Food Programme deducted individual food rations twice, from USD 12 to USD 10, then to USD 8 <sup>5</sup> , in 2023 which adversely impacted the overall food security situation in the Rohingya camp as they are the fully assisted community.
<b>Output 1.</b> 15 000 Rohingya households are provided with vegetable seeds and microgardening kits	Number of Rohingya households provided with inputs	0	15 000	15 000	No variance
<b>Output 2.</b> 15 000 individuals are trained in homestead gardening	Number of Rohingya individuals trained	0	15 000	15 000	No variance

<sup>4</sup> <https://fts.unocha.org/plans/1143/summary>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.wfp.org/publications/coxs-bazar-wfp-bangladesh-ration-cuts-alert-may-2023-update>

# Haiti

## Programmatic overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Funds provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/HAI/047/SWE	4 845 000	500 000	AIRC

The project was designed in accordance with the 2023 Haiti Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), as well as the Flash Appeal for emergency assistance to the populations affected by the earthquake that hit on 14 August 2021. It expressed a need for emergency grants of USD 187.3 million for life-saving multi-sectoral assistance and support to livelihoods and basic services for 500 000 vulnerable people in the three departments affected by the earthquake. The project was aligned with FAO’s strategic objectives in the country, in particular Priority 4 of the CPF, “Building resilience to natural disasters and food crises”. The project also contributed to one of the United Nations Framework Plan in Haiti’s (2017–2022) priority areas of intervention, “Poverty Reduction and Jobs”. It was also in alignment with the National Policy and Strategy for Sovereignty, Food and Nutrition Security in Haiti Axis 2, “Strengthen family agricultural production, processing and marketing”.

The project is a continuation of activities carried out under an FAO Technical Cooperation Programme-funded project, TCP/HAI/3902, entitled, “Strengthening the socio-economic empowerment of rural women in the South Department”. The project was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry for the Status and Rights of Women to improve women’s resilience to climate and political shocks.

### OSRO/HAI/047/SWE | Strengthening livelihoods of vulnerable populations in food insecurity-affected areas in the South department

#### Affected populations targeting and selection

FAO, in collaboration with its implementing partner *Groupe d’Appui aux Activités de Développement en Haïti* (GRADEH), organized planning and outreach meetings with local authorities, agricultural offices and community-based organizations in the targeted communes. These participatory meetings facilitated the dissemination of project information, the coordination of activities to prevent overlap with other initiatives and aided the accurate targeting and distribution of resources. It also ensured comprehensive community awareness and engagement from the onset of the project.

The targeting process was designed to be participatory, leveraging local knowledge and perceptions of the socio-economic characteristics of households to ensure accuracy. This method proved effective in identifying those most in need of support, particularly in the context of the post-disaster environment where nearly everyone was deemed vulnerable.

In the communes of Port-à-Piment and Coteaux, vulnerable household targeting committees were established, each consisting of 9 to 11 members. A training and information session was organized for each committee with 51 participants, of whom 21 were women. The training aimed to enhance their capacity to accurately identify and target vulnerable households and to ensure the transparency of the process. These committees included representatives from local authorities, community organization

management committees, religious and community leaders, members of the Communal Section of Administration Councils and the Communal Agricultural Office, and representatives from GRADEH and FAO.

Based on pre-defined vulnerability criteria, a diverse group of households were targeted. This included those with access to land and a willingness to cultivate it, as well as households that had suffered significantly from natural disasters without the means to cope with such impacts. Beneficiaries also included families displaced by earthquakes who lacked alternative income sources, households with more than five children under ten years old and either a chronically ill or disabled member, and those caring for inactive elderly persons without external help. Additionally, widows or widowers with large families dependent solely on agriculture, foster families caring for orphans under ten years old without support, and individuals with disabilities were prioritized to ensure assistance reached those most in need.

After the committee proposed the list of beneficiaries, these were subjected to public validation sessions conducted at the communal section. These sessions, attended by community members along with FAO and GRADEH technical staff and local authorities, were crucial in identifying and rectifying any errors of inclusion or exclusion. This participatory process not only enhanced community buy-in, but also ensured that targeting was aligned with the actual needs and conditions of the beneficiaries.

With regards to the nutrition awareness sessions, targeting was conducted in collaboration with the implementing partner, *Tèt Ansam pour Yon Demen Miyò* (TAPYDEMI). Through the project, 79 women and one man (40 people in each target commune) were targeted with the support of members of the municipal agricultural offices and community leaders. This comprehensive approach contributed to ensuring that the project effectively reached the most vulnerable, aligning with FAO objectives of responding to food and agricultural crises while promoting resilient agricultural practices among those most affected by disasters.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

To ensure adherence to FAO policies on AAP and PSEA, FAO trained 22 local and implementing partner staff, including nine women. In addition, beneficiaries were sensitized on FAO policies and mechanisms to ensure PSEA, AAP, transparency and accountability throughout the project, including processes for submitting and managing complaints.

Various meetings were held with beneficiaries to plan the dates and sites for the distribution of agricultural inputs, goats and chickens, during which awareness raising campaigns were conducted. All heads of beneficiary households were reached, including 1 269 women and 731 men. During these sessions, participants were informed about the available channels and modalities for submitting feedback. They were also sensitized on their right to file complaints and report any protection issue. The process for filing complaints was agreed upon and involved sharing FAO's Gender Officer's contact number with beneficiaries, targeted committees, communal agricultural office staff and local authorities. FAO informed beneficiaries about the confidentiality of the information received and how complaints and reports would be handled. No reports related to PSEA or protection in general were recorded.

Most of the complaints received, 17 registered, were regarding the delay in the distribution of goats. FAO and its partner GRADEH conducted bilateral monitoring of the complaints and feedback,

responding to the complaints during field visits and notifying complainants of delays due to the country's security crisis.

FAO carried out a risk analysis, assessing potential dangers for beneficiaries, such as the risk of attacks and robbery during and after the distribution of assistance, as well as social tensions at distribution sites caused by non-beneficiaries. FAO determined risk management measures that were implemented throughout the duration of the project, including distributing from the most secure sites at optimal times to minimize security risks; organizing the movement of beneficiaries to and from distribution sites in small, discreet groups capable of mutual protection; and directly collaborating with local administrative and technical authorities, as well as community-based organizations, to communicate project activities and target vulnerable households effectively.

## Gender equality

According to FAO's gender analysis of the country as well as in the targeted communities, women's economic empowerment is a key factor in family survival and recovery and a driver of community resilience. However, rural women and girls are especially vulnerable to disasters and food insecurity.

The distribution of inputs and the trainings received by women-headed households enhanced their resilience and capacity to face future crises. With an average of 260 eggs per year per laying hen, women beneficiaries will have enough eggs for household consumption, as well as surplus to sell at the market and earn additional income. Moreover, goats can produce two kids, with three kidding events every two years, thus increasing the potential for women to grow their herds.

The training allowed women to learn and master quality standards related to good hygiene and nutritional practices, as well as goat and chicken rearing techniques. Once applied, these techniques will help the women live better, eat healthier and manage their animals more effectively. This in turn will improve the production performance of their goats and chickens, potentially bringing economic stability and enhancing their capacity to respond to shocks.

As part of the project, a transversal gender approach was used to guarantee the participation of women and men. The FAO team maintained constant communication with women-headed households to ensure their involvement and participation. This included holding meetings at convenient times for women (to not coincide with daily responsibilities) as well as tailoring the distribution of agricultural inputs and goats.

## Key achievements, coordination and deviations

In collaboration with its partners, GRADEH and TAPYDEMI, FAO supported 2 000 vulnerable households (of whom 1 269 headed by women), around 10 300 people. The following activities were conducted:

- Distributed 10 tonnes of maize seeds (10 kg/household) and 300 000 manioc (also known as cassava) cuttings (300 pieces/household) to 1 000 households, 500 in Côteaux and 500 in Port-à-Piment.
- Distributed 1 000 goats (two goats/household) to 500 women-headed households, 250 households in Côteaux and 250 in Port-à-Piment. However, due to logistical and security constraints at the time of implementation, goats were delivered later than expected (between October 2023 and

February 2024). A total of 164 goats became pregnant. Based on a five-month gestation period, kid production is estimated at two kids per pregnancy, totalling 328 kids.

- Distributed 3 000 chickens (2 500 laying hens and 500 roosters) to 500 women-headed households, 250 in Côteaux and 250 in Port-à-Piment. The Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island breeds of roosters and hens are improved varieties that offer better performance compared to local breeds. Specifically, the hens, of the Pondeuse type, produce an average of 220–260 eggs annually. The roosters, of the Leger type, reach a weight of 3 kg at 18 weeks and up to 4 kg, with a feed conversion ratio of 2.5. These characteristics make the breeds highly efficient for poultry farming. The project initially planned to distribute 5 000 chickens. However, the prevailing security situation led to a general increase in prices. Despite budgetary planning, the cost of chickens was much higher than anticipated. In addition, suppliers were faced with transportation challenges due to gang violence and toll booths installed by these gangs. Consequently, suppliers have resorted to maritime transport, which increased the cost and exceeded the budget.
- Distributed 1 650 sheets of 1x3 m corrugated iron and 250 hexagonal wire-mesh fences to assist beneficiaries in building chicken coops.
- Distributed 25 tonnes of chicken feed (50 kg/household) to each of the 500 beneficiary households.
- Conducted two days of nutritional education and food hygiene training for 80 beneficiaries (79 of whom were women). The training focused on the connections between agriculture, health and nutrition, exploring topics such as food classification, the effects of diet on health, the nutritional needs of various family members, methods for improving food production and storage and the selection and diversification of crops. Focus was placed on practices suitable for emergency situations. Following the training, monitoring by TAPYDEMI revealed that each participant effectively replicated the session within their own community, disseminating their knowledge to at least ten peers.



Table 7. Composition of kits distributed to beneficiary households

Kit 1: Chickens		Kit 2: Goats		Kit 3: Seed and cuttings	
Type of input	Quantity per household	Type of input	Quantity per household	Type of input	Quantity per household
Laying hen (Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island – biotype: Pondeuse)	5	Goats (race: chèvre Créole)	2	Corn seed	10 kg
Improved variety of hens and roosters (Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island breed)	1				
Corrugated sheet (1x3 m)	1x10 mm			Manioc/ cassava cutting	300 pieces
Hexagonal triangular steel wire mesh	1x5m				
Chicken feed (corn)	50 kg				

Table 8. Total quantity of inputs targeted and distributed

Type of input	Total targeted quantity	Total quantity distributed	Reached households
Corn seed	10 tonnes	10 tonnes	1 000
Manioc/cassava cutting	300 000 pieces	300 000 pieces	
Goats (chèvre Créole)	1 000	1 000	500
Laying hen (Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island - biotype: Pondeuse)	3 000	2 500	500
Improved variety of hens and roosters (Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island breed)		500	
Chicken feed (corn)	25 tonnes	25 tonnes	
Corrugated sheet (1x3 m)	1 650 pieces	1 650 pieces	
Hexagonal triangular steel wire mesh	250 pieces	250 pieces	

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

The project enhanced 2 000 vulnerable households' access to food by revitalizing their agricultural and livestock-based livelihoods. FAO and its partners equipped households with the means to produce and manage their food sources effectively. Distributing seed and livestock and conducting comprehensive training sessions enabled families to meet their immediate food needs and establish a robust foundation for ongoing food security and economic stability. The project achieved its three main outputs.



*A project participant stands with her goats.*

### **Output 1. 500 women heads of vulnerable households received goats**

The project successfully met its distribution target. It enabled beneficiaries to start their own goat rearing units, which they described as their “savings account”. Post distribution monitoring results indicated a low mortality rate of 2 percent and a birth rate of 4 percent amongst distributed goats. Additionally, 16 percent of goats were found to be pregnant, suggesting a healthy progression in increasing the goat population through gestation. This initiative empowered women to expand their livestock holdings, significantly boosting their economic self-reliance and resilience.

### **Output 2. 500 women heads of vulnerable households received home chicken raising kits**

Thanks to the in-kind distributions provided, combined with training and technical assistance, women were better prepared to use the chickens for both egg production and meat, enhancing their nutritional intake and economic stability. The distributed hens have an annual production capacity of between 220 and 260 eggs/hen, for an average total capacity of production of around 1 200 eggs/household. This provides at least 10 percent of the protein requirements for an average family. The support provided contributed to improving household food security and providing a sustainable income source.

### Output 3. The agricultural production capacities of 1 000 vulnerable households are restored



*Cassava planted for the Manioc harvesting period.*

Beneficiaries harvested maize, the majority of which was consumed or sold locally. According to the post-distribution monitoring, the average yield for corn was 0.8 tonnes per/hectare (ha). Cassava is in the tuberization phase, and households are preparing for the December harvest. The expected yield is 10 tonnes per/ha. In an agricultural season heavily affected by prolonged droughts, the intervention contributed to the stabilization of market prices and improved access to, and availability of, food in the short-term. All 200 surveyed households expressed their full satisfaction with the seed and cutting assistance and reported that the quality matched their expectations. Some additional comments suggested that future assistance should be more diversified in terms of crops.

Most of the surveyed recipients (79 percent) planted all the provided seed and cuttings, while others saved some maize seed for the next planting season (16 percent) or sold (5 percent) a portion to buy other essentials such as rice.

Table 9. Average amount of maize produced in Coteaux and Port-à-Piment

Commune	Fraction	Number of beneficiary households	Number of households surveyed	Average yield (tonne/ha)	Notes
Côteaux	Condé	250	25	0.78	The maize yields were below expectations for the Côteaux commune. Based on rain-fed agriculture, the extensive production systems are marked by often limited yields. Water remains the main limiting factor. This situation is exacerbated by climate change, which is causing upheaval in the region's cropping calendar and directly impacting crops.
	Despa	250	25	0.79	
	Subtotal	500	50	0.79	
Port-à-Piment	Balais	250	25	0.78	The situation at Port-à-Piment is not too different from that at Les Coteaux. During the season, there were alternating periods of rain and prolonged drought. Yields were better in the Balais section, which benefited from irrigated plots.
	Paricot	250	25	0.75	
	Subtotal	500	50	0.77	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1 000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>776 kg/ha</b>

Special attention was paid to ensuring women and girls were prioritized in the targeting process. Around 63 percent of the 2 000 targeted households were headed by women. For the distribution of goats and chickens, all 1 000 households were women-headed. For the provision of seed and planting material, 27 percent of the 1 000 households targeted were headed by women. People with disabilities represented around 2 percent of the heads of targeted households.

### Sustainability

The intervention enabled vulnerable populations in the South department to recover their livelihoods and avoid long-term dependency on food assistance, making them eligible for the implementation of long-term development action.

The intervention supported beneficiaries' sustainability and resilience by providing them with essential resources and skills to face future crises. The distribution of pregnant goats and chickens offered women heads of households both immediate nutritional support and a sustainable income source as the herd grows through breeding. In this way, the introduction of sources of protein in beneficiaries' diets, notably eggs from their own production, will contribute to improve the health status of vulnerable groups (children under five years old, the elderly, and pregnant and lactating women). This strengthened women's capacities to make decisions that can contribute to improving the nutritional status of their households, given that women are usually responsible for purchasing and preparing food.

Strengthening the capacities of vulnerable households through nutritional education and food hygiene was also key for sustainability. In the long term, it aimed to improve the food security and nutrition of vulnerable families by changing their behaviour through the implementation of good nutritional practices. Importantly, the project employed a training of trainers approach, where trained community leaders disseminated knowledge within their communities, magnifying the impact of the project. This comprehensive strategy ensured that the benefits of the intervention are sustained and scaled-up beyond initial implementation, embedding resilience and enhancing socio-economic conditions within the community.

In addition, the project used a participatory approach, involving local authorities in the processes of strengthening the capacities of community leaders. These community leaders are central to the development of their communities, so the multiplication and practical application of knowledge acquired serves as an example to neighbouring families. As a result, leaders trained can share the knowledge they've gained on market gardening and nutritional education with their community members.

Finally, the project strengthened the capacities of implementing partners' staff, and local administrative and technical authorities to guarantee AAP. This approach will allow them to improve their future interventions as well as contribute to reducing social tensions often caused by political, economic and social crises.

### Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

Overall, most risks identified in the project document matrix did not materialize. In comparison, "insecurity linked to the sociopolitical crisis which limits access to the project action area" was greater than expected. This was partly a result of intensified gang-related violence throughout the country, unexpectedly impacting a critical period of project implementation.

FAO suppliers, implementing partners and field staff were unable to finalize the last expected activities within the planned deadline. In this context, and to ensure the integrity and security of both staff and beneficiaries, FAO requested a three-month no-cost extension. During the extension period, the situation stabilized and activities were finalized.





*A woman stands with the two goats she received and their three newborn baby goats.*

Marie, a 50-year-old mother of three living in Chevalier, Côteaux, faced significant hardships before FAO and its partners implemented the project. Struggling to feed her family and pay for her children’s schooling, Marie’s situation was dire due to poor harvests and the loss of her small livestock, which were critical for her livelihood. Lacking the financial means to buy animals compounded her difficulties, leaving her with scant resources to improve her situation.

Participating in the project marked a turning point for Marie. The project provided her with two pregnant goats and comprehensive training on goat production, reproduction and health management. Embracing the knowledge and resources offered, Marie and her children applied the new techniques, transforming their approach to animal husbandry. Marie explained, “together with my family, we worked hard to apply the goat breeding techniques we had learned”.

The results were transformative. The goats gave birth to three kids, expanding Marie's herd and enhancing her family’s economic stability. This increase in livestock also contributed to improved nutrition for her family. The project’s support has provided Marie with a more sustainable path forward, strengthening her economic self-reliance and instilling hope for her children’s future.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Food security of vulnerable rural populations affected by food insecurity is preserved (Sustainable Development Goal 2).				
<b>Outcome:</b> 2 000 vulnerable households' access to food is improved by protecting or reviving their livelihoods based on agricultural production and livestock.				
<b>Output 1.</b> 500 women heads of vulnerable households received goats	Number of women-headed households who received two goats	0	500	500
	Number of goats purchased and distributed by FAO to women heads of households	0	1 000	1 000
<b>Output 2.</b> 500 women heads of vulnerable households received home chicken raising kits	Number of women who received chickens	0	500	500
	Number of chickens purchased and distributed by FAO to women heads of households	0	5 000	3 000
<b>Output 3.</b> Agricultural production capacities of 1 000 vulnerable households are restored	Number of households benefiting from a kit consisting of 10 kg of maize seed and 300 cassava cuttings per household	0	1 000	1 000
	Average quantity of different food harvested by each beneficiary household 3 to 4 months after sowing/planting	0	800 kg	776 kg/ha

# Mali

## Programmatic overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Fund provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/MLI/072/SWE	15 million	2 906 695	N/A

The project was aligned with FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022–2031, particularly Better Life, Priority Area 3, “Agriculture and food emergencies, and Better Nutrition, Priority Area 2, “Nutrition for the most vulnerable”. The project also contributed towards the achievement of the Food Security Cluster objective through the HRP 2023, which aimed to reach 1.9 million people experiencing food insecurity. In particular, Strategic Objective 1, “Life-saving needs”: Save and preserve the life and dignity of populations with critical needs in areas of crisis through multi-sectoral and agile emergency assistance addressing their vital and survival needs with special attention to the elderly, people with disabilities, children and survivors of gender-based violence.

Interventions financed by Sida enabled FAO to support households among the most vulnerable populations countrywide, particularly in Gao and Ménaka regions. These regions had been under pressure following massive population movements from March 2023. Around 39 000 people had left localities, such as Inekar, Tindermane, Anderamboukane, to find refuge in the Menaka commune.

Sida’s funding was also catalytic in enabling FAO to mobilize and complement funding from other resource partners including the Governments of France and Norway, and the Central Emergency Response Fund. It enabled FAO to provide agricultural inputs to additional households supported through cash+ assistance by projects funded by these resource partners and implemented during the same period.

FAO was able to reach the project’s objective of ensuring that 3 200 vulnerable households do not adopt negative coping mechanisms and improve their capacity to produce food through the collaborative efforts undertaken with various the stakeholders including Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) actors and implementing NGOs.

### **OSRO/MLI/072/SWE | Rapid response for 3 200 vulnerable, food-insecure households affected by shocks in Northern and Centre regions of Mali**

#### Affected-populations targeting and selection

Data from FAO’s Data in Emergencies (DIEM) assessments were used to target the most vulnerable areas, which were selected according to vulnerability criteria. Household economic analysis results were also used to reinforce decision-making based on DIEM. To ensure the commitment of regional and local authorities and partners, FAO organized presentation sessions to share information on the project with food security actors in the area and strengthen coordination to avoid duplication. Thus, depending on the area, several international and local NGOs participated in these meetings, including the project’s five implementing partners, Action and Research Group for Local Development, Association for the Promotion of the Rural World in the Sahel, TARAKATE, Nouveaux Horizons and the

Mali Red Cross. A competitive selection process to identify national implementing NGOs was set up based on a shortlist of local NGOs.

As part of the beneficiary identification process, exchanges took place between actors from the RRM, the Social Development and Solidarity Economy technical service and implementing NGOs. Following these exchanges, the Regional Directorate of Social Development, through its decentralized services, in close collaboration with the RRM committee tasked with monitoring the humanitarian situation in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao, and Ménaka, was able to share the list of beneficiary households with implementing NGOs. The 3 200 households, pre-identified by the Regional Directorate of Social Development, were selected with a view to fill the existing gap in the response and meet the livelihood needs of these households.

Households with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and households experiencing extreme poverty in host communities were targeted for support. To identify IDP households, FAO worked with RRM actors in the Timbuktu region to obtain lists of beneficiaries as part of the RRM/post-RRM continuum<sup>6</sup>. Beneficiary households are selected through a general community meeting where the selection criteria are presented, discussed, and validated by the community. A selection committee set up beforehand drew up the provisional list of beneficiaries under the supervision of implementing partners' field agents. The list of selected households was validated by the whole community at a second public meeting. Emphasis was placed on women-headed households, households with pregnant or lactating women, and households with persons with disabilities. Thus, women represented 29 percent of beneficiary households and 192 people were identified as persons with disabilities.

To ensure compliance with cross-cutting protection measures, instructions were issued to prioritize pregnant and/or breastfeeding women, people with reduced mobility and the elderly during cash distributions.

## Protection and feedback mechanisms

### AAP feedback and complaint mechanisms

With the participation of beneficiaries, communities and local partners, local complaint committees involving all stakeholders were set up to receive complaints from beneficiaries according to FAO's feedback and complaint mechanism. The system is made up of complaint management committees that collect and process information/complaints at the local level and is set up to ensure complaints are addressed in a short time. The implementing partner VIAMO handles cases beyond the complaint management committee. As a last resort, beneficiaries/complainants were able to contact FAO directly for a resolution of their concerns using the FAO toll-free number. The functioning of this mechanism was the subject of information and awareness raising among all stakeholders.

These committees were set up in each locality/village with members made up of accessible and trustworthy men, women, and youth at the community level to collect complaints, process them and

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<sup>6</sup> As is standard practice during crises, the RRM carries out a short-term response, followed by other actors such as FAO continuing the response by providing assistance to affected communities.

relay them to VIAMO in case of non-resolution. In addition, complaint committees were set up at the various distribution sites working closely with VIAMO.

While no sensitive complaints were recorded during the implementation of the project, the project team did receive feedback on the items made available to beneficiary households, particularly the bags included in the microgardening kit. Beneficiaries shared that although the items provided address the issue of limited access to land, gardening in bags does not fully meet the needs of IDPs, particularly in the northern areas of the country where displacement is frequent and happens several times to the same household. Recommendations were made to consider more mobile items such as buckets, for instance. This observation was validated by the Regional Directorate of Agriculture in charge of ensuring the overall quality and providing technical recommendations for the inputs and tools provided. This will be taken into account in future interventions concerning the provision of market garden inputs.

### **Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse**

Partner agents of the NGOs were also trained on PSEA. Gender-based violence aspects were included throughout the project cycle, more specifically during community sensitization sessions and trainings for beneficiary households as well as technical partners. The complaint management mechanism set up at the intervention site also considered gender-based violence. The establishment of the toll-free number made it possible to directly report any situation of exploitation and abuse to FAO. Complainants are protected under FAO's policy on PSEA and a complaint is handled confidentially with the establishment of a commission of inquiry at the highest level of the organization whose actions are confidential. No complaints of sexual exploitation and abuse were reported during the implementation of the project.

### **Protection**

FAO considered all forms of violence across the entire project, and more specifically during community awareness sessions and trainings for beneficiary households as well as technical partners. A risk assessment on the protection of affected persons was conducted and mitigation activities were undertaken during the implementation of the project. For example, distribution locations and times were selected to prevent beneficiaries, especially women and children, from travelling long distances and, above all, to ensure their safety.

### **Gender equality**

The project contributed to reducing gender-related inequalities in terms of opportunities, participation and access to goods and services. Measures were taken to reduce gender-based violence-related risks, such as the communities selecting the distribution sites, verifying the safety of the routes taken by beneficiaries to come to the distributions, the distance to be covered not exceeding 5 km, and prioritizing women to enable them to return to their homes quickly. The project, through its bagged garden (gardens in bags) approach, has helped reduce the risk of gender-based violence for women and girls who access their land for agriculture or fetch water for irrigation and domestic use.

## Key achievements, coordination and deviations

Prior to the implementation of the project, FAO carried out consultations with local authorities, technical services and community leaders. The main objectives of these consultations were to present the project's key activities and to obtain communities' buy-in to ensure their engagement and participation, as well as the sustainability of the interventions. In addition, during the implementation of the project, three supervision missions were undertaken by the FAO project team, allowing cash activities to be supervised by the FAO cash expert. Several project progress and update meetings were also organized monthly between FAO suboffice teams, implementing partners and local authorities. One learning workshop was also conducted to take stock of the project's progress and collect feedback from stakeholders.

### Outcome. 3 200 vulnerable households have not adopted negative coping strategies and have improved their food production capacity through Cash+ activities

The project directly supported 3 200 households, of whom 875 (27 percent) were headed by women, representing a total of 19 200 people. Activities were carried out in 32 villages in eight communes across three cercles.

#### Cash distribution

FAO collaborated with the project's five implementing partners to successfully distribute cash to beneficiaries between September and October 2023. Each household received XOF 45 000 (USD 75) for three months to meet their immediate food needs during the lean season (Table 10).

The financial service provider SAMA MONEY was selected to implement this activity due to its experience in distributing cash transfers in difficult-to-access areas with UN agencies including FAO, as well as its operational coverage countrywide. A letter of intent was signed between FAO and SAMA MONEY detailing the terms of reference and timeline for the intervention.

To provide a better framework for the cash transfer process, FAO put in place standard operating procedures, which clearly specified the respective roles of each of the three parties, namely FAO, the implementing NGO partners, and the financial service provider. A session to clarify the content of the standard operating procedures was organized by FAO with the other two parties prior to the signing of the contract.

In addition to this session, FAO trained selected NGO partners on implementation procedures, including community mobilization and awareness-raising, village selection, beneficiary identification and registration, physical cash transfer, compliance, PSEA, cash transfer monitoring and distribution reporting.



Table 10. Breakdown of cash distribution (September–October 2023)

Region	Commune	Village	Planned number of households	Number of households reached	Number of women-headed households	Total amount received (USD)	Implementing partner
Ménaka	Inekar	Fanfi, Inekar, Tabankort, Tadriane, Inagad	200	200	48 (24.0%)	15 000	Mali Red Cross
	Menaka	Arzoly, Tamtak, Tassiriste	200	200	57 (28.5%)	15 000	Nouveaux Horizons
Gao	Soni Ali Ber	Anoura, Bagoundié 2, Bagoundie1, Bawa 2, Bawa1, Bawa3, Berrah, Forgho, Hamakouladji, Kadji, Magnadoue, Wabaria	1 000	1 000	267 (26.7%)	75 000	TARAKATE
Timbuktu	Bambara Maoude	Dar-Naim, Oulad-Driss, Tin-Tedeni	400	400	80 (20%)	30 000	Action and Research Group for Local Development
	Haribomo	Erewi, Dourgou, Daka Djérèl	330	330	130 (39.4%)	24 750	Action and Research Group for Local Development
	Lafia	Keltamouleit, Keltamouleit Gowa, Keltamouleit Blan	600	600	120 (20%)	45 000	Association for the Promotion of the Rural World in the Sahel
	Serere	Madiakoye, Amaragoungou,	220	220	96 (43.6%)	16 500	Action and Research Group for Local Development
	Rharous	Bangueul, Waikongo	250	250	77 (30.8%)	18 750	Action and Research Group for Local Development
<b>Total</b>			<b>3 200</b>	<b>3 200</b>	<b>875 (29%)</b>	<b>240 000</b>	

### Output 1.1. 1 300 vulnerable farmers households are able to meet their basic needs and protect their agriculture-based livelihood

The project provided 1 300 households, of whom 540 (41.5 percent) women-headed, who had received unconditional cash transfers with vegetable kits comprising 130 g of assorted vegetable seeds and 25 kg of fertilizer. Each kit consisted of 10 g of eggplant, lettuce, onion and tomato seeds, as well as 20 g of amaranth, carrot, cabbage and okra seeds to support households' emergency food

production during the lean season, with the aim of strengthening their livelihoods. The supplied seeds were planted on a total area of 0.5 ha/household, in Inékar, Ménaka, Soni Ali Ber, Haribomo, Lafia, Serere, Rharous communes resulting in the production of about six tonnes of vegetables. This enabled households to meet their food needs for three months and generate income from the sale of surplus produce.

Two groups of beneficiaries were targeted:

1. Group 1 included 650 households, of whom 176 (27 percent) women-headed, who had access to land and water for efficient vegetable production.
2. Group 2 included 650 households, of whom 364 (56 percent) women-headed and 15 percent IDP households, largely without access to land for production.

Beneficiaries from Group 1 received a kit for vegetable production on farmland. Group 2, however, received additional tools necessary for microgardening (gardening in bags) that suited their conditions, thereby enabling them to adequately produce vegetables in close proximity to their homes. Each group was also trained on cultivation methods to optimize production before and during the crop production cycle.

Table 11. Tools included in microgardening kit

Type of input	Quantity per household	Total quantity distributed
Empty bag (50 kg)	10	6 500
PVC pipe 1.5 m (diameter 50)	10	6 500
PVC elbows	10	6 500
Fishing net for garden protection	7	6 500
1-kg boxes of PVC glue	3	217
Rolls of Scotch tape	3	217
Needles (large)	3	217
Packs of cereal bag rope	3	217
8-iron or wooden stakes	3	217
Staking tool	3	217
Shovels	3	217
Spades	3	217
Wheelbarrows	3	217
Pairs of gloves	3	217
Large-diameter sieves	2	325
45-kg roll of black plastic	2	325

### Output 1.2. 1 900 vulnerable pastoral households are able to meet their basic needs and protect their critical livestock livelihood

The project distributed livestock kits to 1 900 agro/pastoral households, of whom 703 (37 percent) were IDPs and 335 (18 percent) women-headed, during the September–October period in Inékar, Ménaka, Soni Ali Ber, Haribomo, Lafia, Serere, and Rharous communes. Each kit contained 200 kg of

livestock feed, a 5-kg lick stone, and veterinary products (Chlorotetracycline spray, Albendazole 300 mg [small ruminants] and Vitamin complex [30 g]), which when successfully used would preserve a household's flock, which also constitutes their sole source of livelihood. Overall, this support ensured the availability of feed and provision of veterinary services for livestock during the lean period. About 5 930 heads of livestock were vaccinated, with each household owning 3–6 animals. Households were also trained on fattening small ruminants and how to efficiently use the vitamins and veterinary products provided.

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

Project coordination meetings noted that displaced households appreciated the microgardening technique that uses bags filled with soil and humus to grow assorted vegetables all-year-round. This technique, however, was not adapted to the production techniques in Ménaka. As a result, the bagged garden system should be redesigned to meet beneficiaries' needs and preferences.

Following distributions, the timing of the project's implementation and difficulties in accessing target areas meant that post-distribution monitoring could not be carried out. However, feedback from the FAO field teams indicates that the cash provided enabled many beneficiary households to meet their food needs. Households also expressed satisfaction with the kits, which will undoubtedly help improve their food security.

Baseline data on the FCS at the start of the project (mid-2023) showed that 60 percent of households had an acceptable FCS, 21 percent borderline and 19 percent poor. Compared with the endline, there was a clear improvement of 30 percent, with 90 percent of households with an acceptable FCS. This can be translated into six months of food-related self-sufficiency for beneficiary households.

With regards to household diet dietary score, baseline data showed that less than 20 percent of households consumed more than four food groups. Endline data indicates this more than tripled to 89 percent of households. This represents an improvement of over 60 percent, confirming that the project significantly contributed to improving the dietary outcome of beneficiary households. The survey was, however, conducted during the harvest season, which is often characterized with abundance, both in terms of quantity and diversity. There is a need to assess the situation during the upcoming lean season to capture a fuller picture of the project's impact.

A drastic decline of up to 67 percent (or 2.55 tropical livestock units) was observed in the average number of cattle owned per household between the baseline (3.8 tropical livestock units) and the endline (1.25 tropical livestock units) surveys. This decline could be partly explained by the remarkable appreciation in the prices of sheep and rams during the Eid festive season. Many pastoral households might have sold most of their sheep flock to generate income to meet festive expenses.

### Sustainability

FAO provided training for the project's five local implementing partners. This was critical in supporting local NGOs' capacity and expertise in delivering quality assistance during the project period. The quality of their services will contribute to building trust between local NGOs and vulnerable communities over time, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of future interventions.

These strengthened relationships will have positive and lasting impacts on supporting vulnerable communities that experience shocks, such as drought, flood and insecurity in similar areas and elsewhere.

### Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

To prevent widespread fraud and/or illegal taxation attempts on beneficiary payments or on implementing partners, FAO engaged a service provider who had obtained all necessary authorizations to operate in the target district. The target community and beneficiaries were informed of beneficiaries' entitlements, and beneficiaries and their communities were encouraged to contact FAO for feedback, complaints or to report the diversion of funds.

Some delays occurred during implementation due to access challenges because of insecurity, however these did not impact the delivery of assistance.

### Aicha's story

Aicha Seydou, a 45-year-old single mother and housewife, lives in Kadji, Gounzourey commune, Gao region. As the head of a household with eight children, three of whom in school, she found it challenging to both support her family and send her children to school. Following the death of her husband, who was an agrifisher, Aicha began to engage in market gardening on her family's 0.25 ha plot of land.

In 2023, she was selected to participate in the Sida-funded project. The project provided her with USD 75 worth of cash assistance to meet her immediate food needs. She also received vegetable seeds, some she was used to growing, including cabbage, fresh okra, lettuce and tomato, and others were new like amaranth, carrot and eggplant. She also received fertilizer (organic manure), which greatly enriched her soil; farming equipment; and training to reinforce her technical knowledge in market gardening and processing market garden produce.

Thanks to this support, Aicha improved her farming practices and increased her production from 102 kg in 2022–2023 to 326 kg in 2023–2024. She and her children consumed 60.5 kg. She gave 28.5 kg to neighbouring families to help other vulnerable people and sold 237 kg, which gave her an income of XOF 259 100 (approximately USD 433). This money enabled her to better meet her financial needs, including paying her children's school fees.

"The project has brought me a lot of happiness. Thanks to the improvement in my market garden production, my family is happy today. I can send all my children to school. We managed to eat our fill, despite the difficulties of this year's season. I can now play my role as a mother. Thank you to FAO for this support, which makes a huge difference to my life," said Aicha.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Food security of vulnerable households targeted by the project is improved				
<b>Outcome:</b> 3 200 vulnerable households have not adopted negative coping strategies and have improved their food production capacity through Cash+ activities				
<b>Output 1.1.</b> 1 300 vulnerable farmers households are able to meet their basic needs and protect their agricultural livelihood	Percentage of households with an acceptable FCS	60%	75%	90%
	Percentage of households that produce and consume part of their food through emergency food production	0	60%	75%
<b>Output 1.2.</b> 1900 vulnerable pastoral households are able to meet their basic needs and protect their critical livestock livelihood	Percentage of households with an acceptable FCS	0	75%	90%
	Percentage of households able to meet the needs of their herd	0	90%	90%

# Myanmar

## Programmatic overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Fund provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/MYA/034/SWE	6 266 785	646 727	AIRC

The project was designed in accordance with Objective 3 of the 2023 Myanmar HRP, “Livelihood and agricultural assistance”, the Myanmar Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal issued in May 2023, and Priority Area C of the CPF 2017–2023, “Enhanced resilience of local communities and farming households to natural and humanitarian disasters, climate change and transboundary and emerging infectious disease risks”.

Specifically, the project contributed to the strategic objectives of the 2023 HRP, focusing on reducing suffering and bolstering food security for crisis-impacted populations. The project’s coordination enabled a multifaceted response to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus challenges within Myanmar. It did this by not only addressing immediate humanitarian needs, but also reinforcing agricultural production capacity and food security, thus fostering sustainable peace and development in the affected regions through the inclusion of beneficiaries around the same objective. This integrated approach was pivotal in mitigating the impact of Cyclone Mocha and the broader crisis landscape, showcasing the importance of collaborative efforts in disaster-stricken and conflict-affected areas. The combined delivery of agricultural inputs and cash transfers addressed both immediate and long-term resilience needs against the backdrop of natural and human-induced challenges. Complementary efforts by other resource partners using similar strategies further fortified a holistic disaster response and resilience-building approach.

### **OSRO/MYA/034/SWE | Life-saving emergency livelihood support to cyclone-affected vulnerable farmers in Magway and Sagaing regions of Myanmar**

#### Affected-populations targeting and selection

The project was implemented in the highly vulnerable Sagaing and Magway regions of Myanmar, which were significantly affected by Cyclone Mocha in May 2023, the subsequent flooding, and ongoing armed conflict, which challenged the country’s response capacities. A needs assessment was conducted to identify the most vulnerable small-scale farmers in the targeted regions. This assessment comprised three components: geographic information system analysis of affected areas, household surveys and key informant interviews in the most affected townships. The targeting strategy and its criteria for selecting villages and households were meticulously designed to prioritize those who were severely impacted by the Cyclone, primarily engaged in agricultural production and lacked support from other organizations. This strategic focus filled a gap in existing aid efforts and ensured support reached people with urgent needs, enhancing their access to food and income.

Gender mainstreaming was integrated during the needs identification process as the project recognized women-headed households as particularly vulnerable, ensuring that these households were prioritized in the selection process. Acknowledging the unique challenges faced by women in



these areas, including heightened vulnerability to economic shocks and gender-based violence, limited access to resources and marginalization from decision-making processes, the project employed a multifaceted approach to support women in addressing these issues.

The project collaborated with a local partner, AVSI Foundation Myanmar<sup>7</sup>, that supported its implementation, ensured coordination, maintained good working relations with concerned authorities and key stakeholders, and facilitated community mobilization. AVSI Foundation Myanmar utilized meetings and provided awareness training and informational materials to ensure widespread understanding and acceptance of the project.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

Before the initiation of Letters of Agreement, orientation and training sessions were organized for both local partner and FAO field staff. These sessions covered project outputs, activities and essential cross-cutting issues. Notably, 2 000 beneficiaries were trained on key protection mechanisms, including PSEA, AAP, conflict sensitivity and a beneficiary feedback mechanism, to safeguard targeted communities and vulnerable groups throughout project implementation. These mechanisms also ensured that participants had access to clear, accessible information about the assistance provided and the criteria for beneficiary selection.

Local partners' knowledge of communities, along with regular coordination with village committees and authorities on security and conflict issues, facilitated more effective coordination of field activities at the village tract or village level. FAO extension field assistants, assigned to their respective townships, monitored daily access and security issues. They worked closely with local partner field staff to identify any protection-related issues and conflict risks arising from field activities. Distribution points and schedules were consulted with village authorities and with the community in general to be the most convenient and safe for beneficiaries.

### Gender equality

The project team had an in-depth understanding of the social and relational dynamics within the villages and actively ensured that key stakeholders were consulted and had a voice in discussions, regardless of their role or status within the community. Furthermore, the project encouraged and facilitated the active participation of women in community meetings and decision-making processes. By doing so, it aimed to amplify women's voices and ensure their perspectives and needs were considered.

### Achievements towards the set of objectives and deviations

The project successfully reached 2 000 vulnerable farming households affected by Cyclone Mocha, of whom 679 were headed by women, directly supporting 10 536 people across various villages in Magway and Sagaing regions (Table 12). Households received essential agricultural inputs and unconditional cash transfers to foster winter crop production as shown in Table 13.

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<sup>7</sup> AVSI Foundation Myanmar is an international NGO registered in Myanmar, whose headquarters is in Milan, Italy. AVSI was selected according to their track record of implementing similar project activities in challenging contexts of political instability in various locations.

Table 12. People reached by region

Region	Township	Households reached	Women-headed households	Total population	Male	Female	People with disabilities
Sagaing	Monywa	500	108	2 543	1 187	1 356	271
Magway	Pokokku	300	77	1 590	724	866	151
	Pwintbyu	600	271	3 278	1 412	1 866	334
	Salin	600	223	3 125	1 204	1 921	361
<b>Total</b>		<b>2 000</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>10 536</b>	<b>4 527</b>	<b>6 009</b>	<b>1 117</b>

Table 13. Summary of support provided per township

Region	Township	Number of households	Compound fertilizer (50 kg bag)	50-kg bag of organic compost (kg)	Black sesame (kg)	Chickpea (kg)	Chili (kg)	Onion (kg)	Corn (kg)	Unconditional cash transfer (MMK/ millions)
Magway	Pakokku	300	450	300	450	9 600	3	-	-	37
	Pwintphyu	600	900	600	900	19 200	6	-	-	75
	Salin	600	900	600	900	19 200	6	-	-	75
Sagaing	Monywa	500	-	2 000	-	-	-	500	2 500	62.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>2 000</b>	<b>2 250</b>	<b>3 500</b>	<b>2 250</b>	<b>48 000</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2 500</b>	<b>250</b>

Awareness sessions and training were conducted for 1 500 households on good agricultural practices and climate-smart agriculture, aiming to enhance sustainable farming practices and resilience against climate-related challenges in Magway region. However, training was not conducted in Monywa township, Sagaing region due to the difficulties and associated risks of the escalation of armed conflict in the last quarter of 2023.

The project's commitment to evaluating its impact led to the successful completion of post-distribution monitoring and data collection. These activities were critical for assessing the effectiveness of the inputs provided and cash support, ensuring that the project's objectives were met.

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

FAO and partners conducted post-distribution monitoring following implementation, interviewing 150 beneficiaries across three surveyed townships in Magway region. Data collection in Monywa township, Sagaing region was not feasible due to the volatile security and access constraints in the township.

The project demonstrated a high rate of agricultural input receipt and utilization, notably with a 100 percent cultivation rate for chickpea seeds, leading to high yields and farmer satisfaction. This achievement highlights the quality of support and resources provided, including valuable agricultural knowledge through the winter crop leaflet.

- All surveyed beneficiaries received the correct amount and type of agricultural input from FAO through the project.

- The majority of beneficiaries (85 percent) found the information leaflets on good agricultural practices informative and useful for their crop production activities.
- A delay in the receipt of agricultural inputs was reported by most beneficiaries (91 percent) impacting the cultivation of winter crops. Only chickpea seeds were planted, while chili and sesame seeds were distributed too late for planting. In this case, the provision of unconditional cash transfers, a one-time payment of nearly USD 60/household, to all beneficiaries helped address household expenditures.
- 100 percent of beneficiaries cultivated chickpea seeds, with high yield satisfaction attributed to the quality of seeds and support received. A notable delay in distribution affected the cultivation of black sesame seeds, and only a minority cultivated chili seeds<sup>8</sup>.
- 100 percent of beneficiaries confirmed receipt of the specified amount of unconditional cash transfers without issues.
- Acceptable FCS increased from 93 percent to 100 percent post-project, indicating improved dietary diversity and food security.
- High awareness of the complaint and feedback mechanism was reported (100 percent), with most beneficiaries preferring complaint boxes and hotline numbers or SMS for communication.

Some suggested recommendations for improvement include (i) increasing the quantity of agricultural inputs and cash assistance due to high input costs; (ii) providing other types of seed (e.g. paddy seeds) and more farming tools and resources; (iii) procuring quality inputs locally if available; and (iv) distributing conditional cash transfers or establishing cash voucher systems to support local markets and producers.

### **Change in crop yields at household level**

Most farmers (92 percent) who cultivated chili reported higher yields compared with previous seasons, demonstrating the effectiveness of the FAO seeds. Satisfaction levels among these farmers were high (62 percent) due to the support received for their livelihoods. Among 150 surveyed beneficiaries, 13 (9 percent) planted chili seeds on a total of 5.5 ha designated for FAO seeds. The total chili production reported by these households was 34 776 kg, with an average yield of approximately 2 675 kg/household at an economic value of approximately USD 438/household. Out of those harvested, households reported that 99 percent of the harvest was sold, and one percent consumed by the family.

Regarding chickpea production, 61 percent of beneficiaries reported satisfaction with the harvest, attributing their positive experience to the quality of FAO seeds which were disease-resistant leading to good yields. All surveyed households planted chickpea seeds across 47.26 ha. The total chickpea production was 47 155 kg, with an average yield of 325 kg/household worth approximately USD 240/household. Households reported that 80 percent of the harvest was sold, 15 percent shared with relatives or consumed by the family, and the remainder kept as seeds for the next season.

These findings indicate that the distribution of high-quality seeds significantly contributed to improving crop yields and enhancing the economic well-being of farmers in the targeted regions. The support provided through these seeds not only helped in achieving better yields but also played a crucial role in enabling farmers to navigate economic challenges by reducing the need for external capital for farm investments. By enhancing food security, agricultural productivity and economic

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<sup>8</sup> Due to the poor quality of seeds in previous years in Myanmar because of trade restrictions, FAO requires sampling and testing to be carried out twice (loading or receiving the seeds, and delivery to field locations), delaying the receipt of seeds.

stability, the project appears to have mitigated the need for negative coping mechanisms among affected communities, marking a successful intervention against the backdrop of cyclone impacts and other challenges. The neutral responses suggest that while many farmers benefited from the project, there might be opportunities for further improvement in addressing the broader needs and challenges faced by farming communities.

## Sustainability

Aligned with FAO's localization strategy, the project also focused on enhancing local partner capacity, closely managing knowledge transfer and resource allocation on the ground. The project's commitment to strengthening local capacities reflects a dedication to nurturing self-reliance and aimed for a ripple effect of long-term benefits within communities. By providing agricultural inputs and cash to facilitate the resumption of agricultural production, the project enabled farmers to replenish seed stocks, including by using grains produced for the next year's agriculture season, directly empowering them to build their resilience to potential shocks. Consequently, farmers reduced their reliance on food assistance and enhanced their capacity for successful crop cultivation.

Technical knowledge was enhanced through awareness training that included sessions on integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management, as well as promoting the importance of organic sources of fertilizers to lessen the use of chemical fertilizers and improve soil conditions. Leaflets on nutrition were also distributed to promote healthy eating habits among the targeted population. This education empowered farmers with the skills needed for sustainable crop production, harvesting and storage, laying the groundwork for long-term improvements in agricultural production. In addition, the technical sessions were designed to be accessible to women and highly encouraged their participation, enhancing their skills, knowledge and confidence to actively participate in agricultural decision-making.

Finally, by incorporating community and stakeholder feedback throughout the project cycle and actively involving beneficiaries in the project's design and implementation, the project ensured that interventions were community-driven and responsive to local needs. This approach fostered a sense of ownership among local actors, which was crucial for the sustainability of the project outcomes.

The combination of these elements – increased agricultural capacity, enhanced technical knowledge, strategic partnerships and community-driven initiatives – contributed to a sustainable model of humanitarian response that aligned with the Grand Bargain's emphasis on local empowerment. By strengthening the resilience and self-sufficiency of local farmers and communities, the project laid a solid foundation for continued progress toward addressing humanitarian needs through local leadership and participation.

## Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

The project encountered several challenges, impacting its timelines and requiring adaptive strategies to achieve its objectives.

1. The scarcity of potential partners, influenced by restricted access and the complexities of operating within these targeted regions, significantly narrowed the selection pool. Few partners possessed the necessary operational capacity and willingness to engage in these challenging areas. In response, the project team intensified their support and monitoring efforts, ensuring the project activities could be successfully implemented.
2. The volatile security situation and active conflict in the targeted areas limited staff mobility for field activities. In response, the project secured travel authorizations from Regional Government Offices, ensuring staff movements complied with the General Administration Department requirements.
3. Advice from local authorities led to the replacement of two prioritized villages due to escalating conflict in Salin townships, Magway region. This required flexible planning and constant liaison with local authorities to adapt the project's scope accordingly.
4. Agricultural inputs (particularly fertilizers) faced a continued risk of rejection through government checkpoints in areas where the conflict had escalated. Continuous monitoring of security and negotiation or request of approvals of FAO local partners from the local authorities was needed to secure the passage of inputs.
5. Significant procurement difficulties arose due to the scarcity of quality fertilizers and limited market supply. This demanded agile responses from the project team, including renegotiations with suppliers and revising fertilizer types and quantities. Despite the challenges, the project team effectively coordinated to deliver and distribute inputs to beneficiaries in all project locations, maintaining adherence to FAO quality and operational guidelines.



*A project beneficiary harvests chickpeas in Salin township, Magway region.*

Daw Nu San (*name changed*) is a 32-year-old farmer from a rural village in Salin township, Magway region, where agricultural production is the heart of livelihoods. Their family of four relies on farming, predominantly the cultivation of seasonal crops like chickpeas and sesame. However, in May 2023, their life was upended by Cyclone Mocha, which brought torrential rains and flooding, devastating their crops and plunging them into a cycle of debt due to previous loans for seeds, fertilizers and land rent.

In August 2023, they were selected by FAO and AVSI as one of 91 households in their village to receive assistance. The Sida-funded project was designed to help small-scale farmers like them recover from the Cyclone by restoring and protecting their livelihoods. In addition to high-quality black sesame, chickpea and chili seeds and fertilizers, farmers received cash assistance and training on good agricultural practices. The training was transformative, equipping farmers with knowledge of disease management, seed quality improvement and how to increase yields.

As Daw Nu San embraced and applied good agricultural practices to their chickpea production activities, their yield soared to 18 baskets per 0.40 ha (one basket is equivalent to about 32 kg of chickpeas), a significant increase (157 percent) from the seven baskets they previously harvested. This assistance helped their family and others like them overcome financial burdens, setting them on the road to financial independence.



## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<p><b>Outcome:</b> The agricultural livelihoods of the most vulnerable small-scale farmers impacted by Cyclone Mocha were rebuilt, protected and improved by providing time-critical and season-sensitive emergency assistance in the form of quality agricultural inputs, unconditional cash transfers and related technical training.</p>				
<p><b>Output 1.</b> 2 000 most vulnerable farming households have improved access to nutritious and adequate food through the provision of vegetable seeds, oil seeds, pulses and fertilizers to enhance their nutrition and income</p>	Number of households assisted with agricultural inputs	0	2 000 households	2 000 households
	Number of people provided with awareness training, good agricultural practices and nutrition leaflets as part of the vegetable production package assistance	0	2 000 households	1 500 households <i>(the local partner was unable to organize trainings in one township due to security and access constraints)</i>
<p><b>Output 2.</b> Livelihoods of 2 000 selected vulnerable farming households and their family members are protected through the provision of a one-time cash transfer</p>	Number of people who received cash	0	2 000 households	2 000 households
	Total value of unconditional cash transfer in USD	0	USD 60/household	USD 59.52/household The total amount distributed was USD 119 048 (MMK 250 million)

# The Niger

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Funds provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/NER/075/SWE	10 million	968 898	N/A

## Programmatic overview

The project contributed to achieving the objectives of the HRP 2023. The project's activities complemented those of the Food Security Cluster, which included the provision of rainfed and irrigated seeds, agricultural equipment, cash assistance (Cash+ and cash for work), goat kits, animal feed (wheat bran and compound feed), fishing kits, equipment support for women fish processors and the setting up of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). The project was also implemented simultaneously in the same areas with other FAO projects, enabling synergies to be developed (such as pasture protection activities using firebreaks through cash for work, etc.).

These actions were also in line with the Government of Niger's 2023 response plan and contributed to achieving Sida's objectives in the Sahel region and FAO's strategic objectives of the four Betters, in particular Better Life.

The project was implemented in the regions of Tillabéry, Diffa, Maradi, Zinder and Tahoua, in order to improve the food security of the project's target population and enable them to cope with the cereal and fodder deficits of the 2022–2023 season and strengthen their livelihoods in a context of insecurity. The project assisted vulnerable agro/pastoral households in areas where people were facing Crisis or worse (*Cadre Harmonisé* Phase 3 or above) levels of acute food insecurity, according to the November 2022 *Cadre Harmonisé*. Support was also provided to people who had returned home after several years of displacement following the conflict caused by the Boko Haram sect in the Diffa region.

## OSRO/NER/075/SWE | Improving food security and resilience of communities in Diffa, Maradi, Tillabéri and Zinder

### Affected-populations targeting and selection

Geographic targeting was based on the results of the November 2022 *Cadre Harmonisé* needs analysis. Food-insecure areas and estimates of food and nutritionally insecure populations were determined. Project beneficiaries were targeted using the household economic analysis method. Seven national NGOs, trained by FAO, carried out the exercise, including *Youth Action for Development*; *Initiative pour un Développement à la Base*; *Volontaires Nigériens pour le Développement*; *Association Nigérienne pour un Développement Durable*; *Organisation Nigérienne d'Appui au Développement des Initiatives Locales*; *Association de Lutte pour l'Autosuffisance et Développement* and *Groupe Conseil d'Appui au Développement*. Interviewers were trained to collect information on household status, household size, number of children, number of able-bodied hands, socio-economic data (number of animals owned, sources of income, size of field, etc.), household food consumption, etc. Households experiencing extreme poverty were selected according

to predefined criteria. A village targeting committee was set up using key informants. The list of selected households was presented at a village general meeting attended by all stakeholders, including the village community, surveyors and decentralized technical service providers.

Complaints and claims were checked following feedback in the presence of complaints committee members. Representatives of the complaints committee, 4–6 people/village, were chosen by the community, with the participation of women and young people. The list was then validated after the verification exercise was completed and feedback provided to complainants. Awareness-raising missions were also carried out by NGO implementing partners in the target municipalities.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

FAO trained implementing partners on accountability and PSEA approaches. A total of 259 people, including 85 women, were trained in the feedback mechanism in 100 villages in the intervention zones. Topics included setting up village complaints committees, disseminating the FAO hotline and electronically registering beneficiary households. Visibility tools for the hotline (roll-up banner, brochure, etc.) were shared with partner NGOs. Additionally, PSEA information/awareness-raising missions were organized for all project stakeholders.

Complaints committees in each village were formed and set up to report information. All complaints received through the complaints committees and the hotline were dealt with on a disaggregated basis. Gender-based violence was prevented through awareness-raising and referrals to specialized care services carried out by NGOs and members of the complaints committees during the implementation of project activities.

Within the framework of the project, the FAO and its implementing partners emphasized compliance with beneficiary protection standards, taking account of gender, including marginalized groups and those with specific needs, throughout the entire project cycle. Close collaboration with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security ensured compliance with the ‘do no harm’ principle in all areas of intervention. Regular contact was maintained with communities in the planning and implementation of activities, including the choice of distribution dates, distribution sites, cash, and inputs, to ensure that their best interests were considered.

### Gender equality

Women were involved in all processes relevant to project implementation, including awareness-raising and information sharing, targeting of beneficiaries, and distribution and monitoring of activities, through partner NGOs and committees set up locally. Priority was given to women-headed households during the beneficiary selection process. They represent 31 percent of the total number of households reached by the project.

### Key achievements, coordination and deviations

A total of 16 507 households (115 549 people), including 5 089 women-headed households, were supported through the project.

Output 1. 13 500 vulnerable farming households have access to high-quality agricultural inputs to resume production in communes in *Cadre Harmonisé* Phase 3 and above in Diffa, Maradi, Tillabéri and Zinder regions

A total of 14 423 vulnerable farming households (100 961 people), including 4 600 women-headed households, received quality agricultural inputs and training during the two main agricultural seasons (rainy and irrigated).

Table 14. Composition of rainy season kit

Rainy season kit		
Input	Quantity per household	Total distributed
Millet	10 kg	120 000 Kg
Cowpea	5 kg	60 000 Kg

Table 15. Composition of irrigated season kit

Irrigated season kit		
Input	Quantity per household	Total distributed
Carrot	10 g	30 kg
Tomato	10 g	30 kg
Cabbage	10 g	30 kg
Lettuce	10 g	30 kg
Maize	5 kg	15 000 kg
Watering can	1	529
Hoe	1	647
Rake	1	706
Daba	1	685
Motor pump	N/A (shared by groups of households)	30

Table 16. Rainy season, breakdown of households reached

Region	Department	Commune	Number of households reached	Number of women-headed households
Diffa	N'Guigmi	Kablewa	500	75
		N'Guigmi	500	130
Maradi	Madarounfa	Safo	500	136
		Sarkin Yamma	510	196
	Mayahi	El Allassane Maireyrey	474	38
	Tessaoua	Ourafane	500	89
Tahoua	Tahoua	Tebaram	500	152
Tillaberi	Say	Tamou	50	8
	Tera	Diagourou	501	22
		Kokorou	450	44
		Tera	500	80
	Tillaberi	Kourteye	50	20
	Torodi	Torodi	500	56
Zinder	Damagaram Takaya	Damagaram Takaya	443	95
<b>Total</b>			<b>5 978</b>	<b>1 141</b>

Table 17. Irrigated season, breakdown of households reached

Region	Department	Commune	Number of households reached	Number of women-headed households
Diffa	Bosso	Bosso	396	89
		Toumour	383	125
	Diffa	Chetimari	1 110	302
		Gueskerou	401	63
	Maine-Soroa	Maine Soroa	501	116
		N'Guigmi	1 236	711
	N'Guigmi	Kablewa	176	38
		N'Guigmi	1 285	627
Maradi	Dakoro	Dakoro	298	159
	Madarounfa	Madarounfa	400	30
Tahoua	Tahoua	Tebaram	300	111
Tillaberi	Tera	Tera	837	458
	Tillaberi	Anzourou	405	326
Zinder	Goure	Alakoss	398	218
		Kelle	319	86
<b>Total</b>			<b>8 445</b>	<b>3 459</b>

These inputs enabled beneficiary households to:

- Plant an average of 5 978 ha of cereals and produce around 2 989 tonnes to meet household food requirements for a minimum period of five months.

- Create a garden of around 0.25 ha/household with vegetables available to feed the household as well as additional income from the sale of surplus.

A cash-for-work activity (land clearing) took place in the commune of Gueskerou, Diffa region, with the participation of 240 households benefiting from irrigated season kits, including 38 women. The activity involved clearing the villages to which IDPs had returned. Land clearing material was distributed to beneficiaries and site management committees were set up in the eight villages involved in the activity. Beneficiaries also received reinforcement training in collaboration with the environmental services. These communities worked for 25 days and received a cash payment of XOF 50 000 each (around USD 82). The number of days worked by each household was recorded, with payment made according to the number of days worked/household, i.e. XOF 2 500/day (around USD 4) worked.

Table 18. Land clearing equipment (cash for work)

Number of beneficiaries	Cutter	Axe	Rake	Shovel	Wheelbarrow	Traction rope	50 m tape	Gloves (pair)	Dust mask	Water can (5 l)	First-aid box
240	70	24	66	24	25	24	10	240	240	112	24

### Output 2. 250 vulnerable households received Cash+ support to resume their livelihoods in Diffa and Tillabéri

A total of 250 vulnerable households in the Diffa region, of whom 45 women-headed, benefited from a Cash+ goat activity. Each household received a goat kit (three goats and one billy goat), 150 kg of compound feed, veterinary care and a one-time unconditional cash transfer of XOF 80 000 (around USD 132). The kit was provided to households of returnees, enabling them to restore their livelihoods.

### Output 3. 150 fishing households have access to inputs and equipment to develop their livelihoods

A total of 150 fishers in the Diffa region, including four women, benefited from a Cash+ fishing activity. Activities were implemented in Bosso, Gueskerou and Chetimari communes, with 50 households supported in each. Households received fishing kits and an unconditional cash transfer of XOF 80 000 (around USD 132) to improve their daily activities, income and diet. The fishing kit consisted of six rolls of 200 m of different fishing lines; four packs of 1 000 hooks of different sizes; two fishing pots; one stainless steel basin; and one jetty.

Additionally, 30 women were trained in fish processing and hygiene techniques in Bosso, Gueskerou and Chetimari communes (ten women each). The women were also each given a kit for frying fish, which included a saucepan, table, apron, glove, muffler, glass case and packaging.

### Output 4. 750 agro/pastoral households have access to feed and veterinary care for their animals

Overall, 1 654 agro/pastoral households, of whom 410 women-headed, received 248.1 tonnes of wheat bran, with each household receiving 150 kg. This was a supplement to the feed provided, covering five months of feed for the four goats distributed. The budget savings made on the purchase of inputs, due to low prices, enabled significantly more households to receive wheat bran (Table 19).



Additionally, approximately 8 270 animals, belonging to the same households, were vaccinated and received veterinary care from livestock technical services. Animals were vaccinated against peste des petits ruminants, pasteurellosis (Pastovac and Pastobovac), lumpy skin disease, and sheep and goat pox (Dermovac); and received antiparasitics, 300 mg and 2 500 mg of bolus.

The provision of livestock inputs helped households maintain their herds, thereby protecting their main source of livelihood.

Table 19. Breakdown of households receiving livestock feed and veterinary care

Region	Department	Commune	Number of households reached	Number of women-headed households
Diffa	Maine-Soroa	Foulatari	153	30
	Bosso	Toumour	210	51
	Diffa	Gueskerou	498	97
	N'Guigmi	Kablewa	90	24
Maradi	Madarounfa	Madarounfa	436	92
Zinder	Mirriah	Dogo	20	11
		Droum	16	10
		Gaffati	19	6
		Gouna	19	6
		Hamdara	1	0
		Mirriah	48	19
		Zermou	11	5
	Tanout	Gangara (Tanout)	36	15
		Ollelewa	43	18
		Tanout	25	13
		Tenhya	29	13
	<b>Total</b>			<b>1 654</b>

### Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)

A total of 50 VSLAs were either revitalized or set up in the communes of Bosso, Gueskerou and Chetimari. All 1 100 VSLA members were women from households benefiting from other project activities. They received training on how to run their association and were equipped with VSLA kits enabling them to manage their activities.

Table 20. Composition of VSLA kits

Item	Quantity per group
Box with 3 latches	1
Padlock	3
Account books for members	25
Rubber stamp to mark wooden parts	1
Ink pad	1
Reserve ink bottle	1
Ruler (30 cm)	1
Black or blue ballpoint pens	1
Red ballpoint pens	1
Calculator	1
Plastic bowls of different colours	3
Canvas string bag in three different colours, one for the Solidarity Fund and the other for the Credit Fund and the last for other funds (to be defined by the group) in a set of 3	3
Large format notebook	1
Small format notebook	1

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

Households that received livestock feed (4.94) and Cash+ support (4.89) had the best average dietary diversity scores, with 32 percent and 37 percent of households, respectively, showing high dietary diversity. Regionally, households in Diffa (4.79) had the highest scores, while Zinder (3.78) and Maradi (4.13) had the lowest scores.

In terms of coping strategies, households that received Cash+ support performed much better, with 70 percent of households adopting no strategy at all. Overall, households assisted by the project developed fewer coping strategies than households in FAO's DIEM (baseline) survey.

### Seed distribution

Post-distribution monitoring surveys were carried out. Overall, 100 percent of households benefiting from the project indicated that they received seeds in good or very good condition, and 99 percent reported that the seed distributed was adapted to local production conditions. The seed distributed showed good germination (90 percent), good growth (87 percent) and better performance (84 percent) than the seed normally used by households.

The average yield obtained for millet and cowpea was 500 kg/ha. These yields are slightly lower than those obtained in 2022 due to the dry 2023 rainy season.

### Cash distribution

Across the sample of households receiving cash (unconditional and cash for work), the amount received covered household food needs for an average of seven weeks. Cash was used primarily for food expenditure (69 percent of the money used), the purchase of animals (6 percent), investment in an income-generating activity (5 percent) and the payment of debts (4 percent). According to 99 percent of households, the distribution did not lead to an increase in food prices on local markets.

## Distribution of livestock feed

Households surveyed during the post-distribution monitoring more frequently reported having had more livestock births in the last 12 months (41 percent). They were also less affected by distress sales, particularly in Zinder, Maradi and Diffa regions. The distribution of livestock feed may have helped to reduce the prevalence of this strategy.

## Sustainability

FAO signed memorandums of understanding with national NGOs in all project areas. NGO implementing partners worked with government decentralized technical services to provide technical support and ensure compliance with various national technical standards. The capacities of local players have been strengthened, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the project. Beneficiary community members (men, women, village associations, opinion leaders, etc.) were put at the heart of the project, from the identification of needs to the implementation and monitoring of project activities. Through the transfer of skills, communities will be able to replicate project activities without external expertise.

## Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

The main risk in implementing the project was linked to the security situation in some of the project's areas of intervention (Tillabéri and Diffa, in particular). The project team took steps to mitigate the impact of insecurity on the project's results. To this end, local authorities were kept informed of any movements in the field to ensure that security arrangements could be reinforced. Priority was given to national NGO implementing partners with a good knowledge of the local context. They were also informed of the security situation prior to any movement in the field through focal points (community members in the villages) and coordinated their actions with security authorities.

Project activities were implemented according to the implementation plan using the security watch approach. Nevertheless, the coup d'état on 26 July 2023, followed by the sanctions imposed on the Niger by the Economic Community of West African States, had an impact on the normal operation of partner NGOs, input suppliers and financial service providers. This led to a delay in certain activities, such as the supply of goats, compound feed and cash transfer operations. In agreement with Sida, the project received a three-month no-cost extension, allowing for the finalization of activities.



*Boram Djari processes smoked fish in front of her house in Mamouri.*

Boram Djari is a woman from Mamouri village, Bosso commune in the Diffa region. “Like many women in my community, I have struggled for a long time to provide for my family, facing moral and ethical dilemmas with huge arrangements to survive in our hostile environment. I was lucky enough to be targeted by the project implemented by FAO and the NGO Garkua and funded by Sida. Fishing is an important activity in the region, and thanks to the FAO project, I was able to benefit from training in fish processing techniques. The project also gave me a fish processing kit”, Boram shared.

She continued, “In our village we also have a VSLA women's group called ‘Kerea Daunya’. After the kit support, I received XOF 80 000 from the project and capacity-building training, and I also got a loan of XOF 30 000 from our VSLA”.

With this support, Boram started processing smoked and fried fish as an additional source of income. Gradually, her business grew, and she began selling her smoked and fried fish at local markets. This new activity enabled her to contribute more to her family's expenses and improve her living conditions. “Before the project, I felt destitute and unable to provide for my children. Now, thanks to fish processing, I'm more independent and confident about my future,” said Boram. The income generated by her business has enabled her to repair her house and send her children to school.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Improved food security in Tillabéri, Diffa, Maradi and Zinder.				
<b>Outcome:</b> 14 650 vulnerable households' livelihoods are strengthened and adapted to climate change to improve their food security and nutrition	Number of people in Phase 3 or worse food insecurity and malnutrition has decreased in target departments	N/A	20%	20% at least
<b>Output 1.</b> 13 500 vulnerable farmer households have access to high-quality agricultural inputs to resume production in communes in <i>Cadre Harmonisé</i> Phase 3 and above in Diffa and Tillabéri regions				
	Number of households receiving rainfed seed package	0	12 000 (25% women-headed)	5 978 (19% women-headed)
	Number of households receiving irrigated seeds (maize, rice, etc.)	0	1 500 (25% women-headed)	8 445 (41% women-headed)
	Number of households receiving vegetable seeds and tools	0	1 500 (50% women-headed)	8 445 (41% women-headed)
	Number of people participating in cash for work to clear returnees' village perimeter	0	240 (20% women-headed)	240 (16% women-headed)
<b>Output 2.</b> 250 vulnerable households received support through Cash+ to resume their livelihoods in Diffa and Tillabéri				
	Number of households receiving goat kits	0	250 (30%, 70% women-headed and 70% returnee or displaced households)	250 (18% women-headed and 70% returnee or displaced households)
	Number of households receiving unconditional cash (Cash+)	0	250 (30%, 70% women-headed, 70% returnee or displaced households)	250 (18% women-headed and 70% returnee or displaced households)
<b>Output 3.</b> 150 fishing households have access to inputs and equipment to develop their livelihoods				
	Number of households receiving inputs for fishing and aquaculture activities	0	150	150
	Number of fishing and aquaculture households receiving unconditional cash transfers	0	150	150
<b>Output 4.</b> 750 agro/pastoral households have access to feed and veterinary care for their animals				
	Number of households receiving veterinary care for their animals	0	750 (50% women-headed)	1 654 (25% women-headed)
	Number of households receiving feed for their animals	0	750 (50% women-headed)	1 654 (25% women-headed)

## Nigeria



A woman receives a dry season inputs kit including assorted vegetable seeds and a bag of fertilizer.

### Programmatic overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Fund provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/NIR/076/SWE	4 845 000	500 000	AIRC

The project contributed to the broader objectives of Nigeria’s fourth CPF (2023–2027), in particular Pillar B, “Increasing the resilience of food and agriculture-based livelihood systems”, Output 2.2, “Food security, nutrition and agriculture-based livelihoods of crisis-affected populations, with specific attention to women and the youth, are improved and protected through adaptative, anticipatory and shock prepared and responsive social protection”. It was also aligned with HRP Strategic Objective 1, “Affected people receive life-saving assistance to remedy and avert the most severe threats to life and health to reduce (excess) mortality and morbidity” and Strategic Objective 2, “Crisis-affected people enjoy a safer and healthier environment for living, with adequate access to essential services”, as well as Strategic Priority 2.1, “Improving living conditions of 1.4 million IDPs with agriculture resilience support”. In addition, it contributed to FAO’s global strategic objective, “Better life”.

### OSRO/NIR/076/SWE | Emergency agricultural assistance to conflict-affected communities in Northeast Nigeria (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states)

#### Affected-populations targeting and selection

According to the March 2023 *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, more than 4.2 million people were projected to face acute food insecurity by the turn of the 2023 lean



season (June–August). The project sought to provide critical emergency livelihood assistance, including crop inputs and trainings on good agricultural practices, to help support local food production and improve the food security and nutrition of conflict-affected populations.

FAO targeted local government areas with high populations in *Cadre Harmonisé* Phases 3 to 5. Overall, the project targeted nine local government areas in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, including Yola South, Konduga, Damboa, Jere, Mobbar, Ngala, Gwoza, Fika and Jasuko. Beneficiaries were selected through a participatory approach with community stakeholders, including women, who facilitated the beneficiary selection process following FAO criteria:

- household status, i.e. IDP, returnee or host community household;
- access to land for cultivation;
- ability to use inputs to cultivate;
- households with malnourished children and children under five years;
- women-headed/women-led households; and
- women and girls facing protection risks.

Targeted beneficiaries were the most vulnerable among IDPs, returnees and host community members that were identified by the selection committee through wealth ranking. In a post-distribution monitoring assessment completed in June, 59 percent of beneficiaries shared that the selection criteria was very good, while 41 percent shared that it was good, indicating that the selection criteria was robust. Regarding the quality of inputs received, 79 percent of respondents were very satisfied, and 10 percent were partially satisfied. A further 11 percent were either dissatisfied or partially dissatisfied with the quality of inputs distributed because they felt the fertilizer was not effective and was not suitable for the type of soil in their area.

FAO worked in partnership with a government agency, Community-based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme, and two local NGOs, the Centre for Social Change and Economic Development and the Cohort for Existential Emergency Relief, to implement project activities.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

FAO and its implementing partners carried out sensitization activities by informing beneficiary communities about the project objectives and composition of the input packages that they were entitled to.

At the beginning of the project, the FAO gender and protection specialist conducted a sensitization session remotely for implementing partners on the integration of gender and protection considerations into project implementation. The session touched upon PSEA, AAP and Communicating with Communities. This was replicated by implementing partners in the target communities during sensitization missions. Beneficiaries were also sensitized on gender-based violence with the aim of mitigating possible occurrences within the scope of the project.

Beneficiaries were also informed about how to provide feedback or lodge complaints. A free hotline managed by the FAO protection specialist was provided, and the number was inscribed on pamphlets, banners and input packages for easy access. In addition, help desks were established at distribution sites.

Most feedback received was related to expressions of satisfaction on the quality of the inputs received. To a lesser extent, some complaints of having not been targeted for assistance were also reported. Results from the post-distribution monitoring indicated that 69 percent of respondents were satisfied with the sensitization process done by FAO and its implementing partners. The 31 percent indicating dissatisfaction with the process thought that the seed types and input quantities were not well communicated to beneficiaries. This feedback has been taken into account.

## Gender equality

Gender mainstreaming was integrated through strategies aimed at supporting rural women's agricultural livelihoods in conflict-affected areas of northeast Nigeria. These strategies acknowledged challenges such as food insecurity, displacement, limited access to services and entrenched gender roles. FAO aimed to empower women by providing them with specific crop-input kits tailored for dry-season farming, thereby enhancing their capacity to engage in agricultural activities. Further efforts focused on increasing women's access to information, knowledge and awareness on agronomic best practices and climate-smart agriculture relevant to the dry season through Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Data collection was disaggregated by sex and age, with specific indicators to measure gender equality results, ensuring that women's participation and outcomes in rainy season farming were accurately captured and addressed. Almost 40 percent of households receiving dry season inputs were headed by women.

## Key achievements, coordination and deviations

The project reached a total of 5 214 households (approximately 36 498 people), of whom 2 094 were headed by women.

### Output 1. Conflict-affected vulnerable households have improved access to quality crop production inputs and extension services (4 000 households, approximately 28 000 individuals)

FAO supported communities who had access to reliable water infrastructure with an assortment of quality vegetable seeds and fertilizer. Distributed kits were tailored to fit the specific agro-ecological zone and the predominant staple crops within the community, incorporating adaptations suited for the dry season.

A total of 13 FFS were established, each consisting of 30 participants on average (390 people directly trained) who received inputs through the project. Each participant is expected to share the knowledge gained with a minimum of five people in their community. Technical topics discussed included soil, crop and water management, seed multiplication and varietal testing, integrated pest management, agropastoralism, aquaculture, agroforestry, nutrition, value chains and links to markets. Following participation in the FFS, each farmer was expected to reach a minimum of three farmers in their communities through farmer-to-farmer extension contact.

A total of 35.042 tonnes of vegetable and crop seed and 110 tonnes of NPK fertilizer were distributed. Each household received a package of inputs as outlined in Table 21, consisting of either 0.91 kg of assorted vegetable seeds (kit 1), 12.5 kg of rice or 10 kg of maize (kit 2) along with 25 kg of fertilizer. The type of kit allocated was based on households' access to irrigated land, whereby the preferred dry season kit consisted of cereals (rice or maize) as the staple food. In such case, kits were not varied.

The quantity of seed in kit 2 was higher, as vegetables are preferred by households with more limited access to land.

Table 21. Kit composition for dry season inputs

Kit 1: vegetables		Kit 2: cereals	
Input	Quantity per household	Input	Quantity per household
Amaranth	0.2 kg	Maize or rice	10 kg maize, or 12.5 kg rice
Cabbage	0.02 kg		
Carrot	0.12 kg		
Okra	0.3 kg		
Tomato	0.02 kg	Fertilizer	25 kg
Onion	0.25 kg		
Fertilizer	25 kg		

Table 22. Quantity of inputs distributed for dry season

Quantity distributed	
Kit type	Total quantity distributed (tonnes)
Kit 1 (Vegetables)	1.274
Kit 2 (Maize)	15
Kit 2 (Rice)	18.75
Fertilizer	110

The project aimed to reach 4 000 households; however, this figure was exceeded, with an additional 1 214 households provided with assistance. This represents a 30 percent increase, which was achieved through savings resulting from fluctuations in exchange rates, as well as adjustments made in the kits provided to accommodate both dry and rainy seasons.

Table 23. Beneficiaries reached with dry season inputs assistance

State	Local government areas	Ward	Community	Number of households	Women-headed households	FFS
Adamawa	Yola South	Ngurore	Langire	300	120	1
			Goduwo	303	103	1
		Mbamba	Rugange	600	250	1
Yobe	Jakusko	Zabudam	Kazir	250	135	1
	Fika	Ngalda	Ngalda	450	150	1
	Karawuwa	Wachakal	Ngarbidi	304	101	1
Borno	Konduga	Wanori	Wanori	600	200	1
	Dambo	Bego	Ngaranam	300	170	1
	Jere	Kaddamari	Kaddamari	600	230	1
	Mobbar	Kadauri	Kadauri	469	124	1
	Ngala	Gamboru C	Gamboru C	519	280	1
	Gwoza	Gwoza	Kudame	259	130	1
Dughule			Dughule	260	101	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>5 214</b>	<b>2 094</b>	<b>13</b>

Project activities were reprogrammed to distribute inputs in the dry season (October–May) rather than the rainy season. This shift was necessary due to several challenges that arose during project implementation, such as the notable increase in inflation, reaching an annual rate of +27.3 percent in

October 2023. This was compounded by the removal of the fuel subsidy, which saw a rise of over NGN 600/L. These factors contributed to volatility in the agricultural inputs market and inflation, with service providers ultimately unable to honour their initial price offers to FAO. Similarly, government-imposed constraints on fertilizer transportation in northeast Nigeria further impeded FAO's interventions.

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

The project aimed to enhance agricultural practices during dry season crop production by prioritizing high-value vegetable cultivation. Anticipated impacts included increased household income, sufficient food provision for five to six months and improved nutrition.

In the post-distribution monitoring assessment for the 2023/24 dry season, beneficiaries indicated that the support provided resulted in improved access to income for households from the sale of vegetables. In addition to this, the vegetables contributed immensely to households' access to a diverse, nutritious diet, and in some locations, vegetables were dried for consumption during times of scarcity.

An outcome assessment conducted in 2024 showed that 46 percent of beneficiary households had increased income from the sale of vegetables. Due to limited access, some households were unable to sell part of their produce and gain extra income, however they managed to consume a variety of vegetables over the period they were available. For households that sold vegetables, the average income derived was NGN 217 600 (approximately USD 145), some households gained as much as NGN 700 000 (USD 467). With improved access to markets, beneficiaries could treble their income as in most cases they were only selling between 30 and 65 percent of their produce.

Table 24. Potential yield for dry season kits

Seed type	Total average % sold per household	Average income obtained per household (NGN)	Average income obtained per household (USD)
Amaranth	50%	20 500	14
Cabbage	38%	11 920	8
Carrot	48%	16 882	11
Okra	47%	31 764	21
Onion	64%	100 030	67
Tomato	50%	36 530	24

### Sustainability

FAO employed a competitive process to identify a local partner responsible for project implementation. The collaboration with Community-based Agricultural and Rural Development Programme facilitated the seamless integration of project results into existing agricultural extension programmes, laying the groundwork for the institutionalization of effective practices. FAO conducted comprehensive needs and capacity assessments of local partners and provided tailored training to enhance their capacities, ensuring the sustainable development of local resources.

The provision of high-quality seeds and inputs helped empower communities with the tools and knowledge necessary to engage in agricultural activities and foster self-sufficiency. Additionally, FFS

trained farmers on how to optimize productivity, ensuring sustainability, community ownership and the efficient management of community resources.

### Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

The devaluation of the Naira, coupled with the removal of fuel subsidies, presented considerable challenges for FAO, particularly affecting the procurement processes for essential agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizer, in preparation for the 2023 rainy season. The market response to inflation resulted in price escalations and vendor refusals, complicating FAO's activities. Similarly, government-imposed constraints on fertilizer transportation in northeast Nigeria further impeded FAO's interventions.

To address these challenges, FAO undertook strategic measures, including the reprogramming of project activities. Resources were reallocated to provide support to vulnerable households during the dry season, offering relief amidst the disruptions. Additionally, FAO initiated negotiations with larger-scale enterprises to establish long-term agreements aimed at streamlining procurement processes for future activities, thereby enhancing resilience to similar challenges in the future.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Improved food security and nutrition among vulnerable conflict-affected households in northeast Nigeria.				
<b>Outcome:</b> Improved food security and nutrition of conflict-affected IDPs, returnees, and host communities in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states	Households with an acceptable FCS	53%	70%	66% The target was not reached by 4% due to deteriorating food insecurity in the target states.
	Number of months of food coverage from own production	4 months	6 months	6 months
	Percentage of smallholder farmers reporting an increase in income from agricultural production	0	60%	47% Households managed to generate income due to FAO activities through the sale of mostly onions, tomatoes and carrots. Despite not meeting the target of 60%, the contribution was significant.
<b>Output 1.</b> Conflict-affected vulnerable households have improved access to quality crop production inputs and extension services (4 000 households, approximately 28 000 individuals)	Number of households benefiting from rainy season agricultural inputs	0	4 000	5 214 (2 094 women-headed)
	Number of smallholder farmers benefiting from extension support training	0	400	2 340 smallholder farmers trained (390 smallholder farmers were trained directly and 1 950 indirectly).

# Somalia



Farxihiya, a farmer, poses for a photo after receiving a sack of FAO agricultural inputs distributed in Buloburto, Somalia.

## Programmatic overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Funds provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/SOM/015/SWE	5 million	484 449	N/A
OSRO/SOM/016/SWE	15 million	1 453 348	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 million</b>	<b>1 937 797</b>	-

Between 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2024, through Sida’s support, FAO implemented two projects in Somalia concurrently to support drought-affected rural households in reducing their vulnerability to drought and other external shocks. Both projects worked in synergy as the data from the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU)’s investigations and assessments (OSRO/SOM/015/SWE) impacted the programming of OSRO/SOM/016/SWE through which emergency livelihood assistance was provided to affected households. FSNAU also implemented several projects that complemented each other and were funded by several resource partners bilaterally. Similarly, the United States Agency for International Development’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance funded a project that provided unconditional cash transfer support to drought-affected households during the lean period, while funds from Sida ensured households received livelihood inputs (Cash+).

The two Sida-funded projects contributed to Somalia’s 2023 HRP, the 2023 UN Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan and Food Security Cluster Strategic Objective 2, “Protection of livelihoods and related food and income sources”, by providing inputs to severely drought-affected households enabling local production to resume. They were aligned with FAO’s Famine Prevention Scale-up Plan



for Somalia under Component 1, “Saving lives and livelihoods”. The projects were designed in accordance with FAO’s Strategic Objective 3 in the CPF, “Protecting the poor and the vulnerable from shocks and stresses”. Additionally, project implementation was linked to Sida’s Strategic Objective, “Better conditions for food security and strengthened adaptation and resilience to climate change and environmental and natural disasters”.

## OSRO/SOM/015/SWE | Support to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU)

### Affected populations targeting and selection

Through the project, FAO aimed to generate valuable information and analysis to support decision-making. The main beneficiaries targeted were more than 50 government line ministries, UN agencies, food security and nutrition cluster partners, resource partners and local and international NGOs. The indirect beneficiaries were the millions of food-insecure people and malnourished children targeted under the 2023 HNRP, and the UN Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plans who would benefit from humanitarian assistance and livelihood support. FAO continued to closely monitor the food security and nutrition situation across Somalia through the FSNAU which was crucial in informing early actions and timely interventions.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

In view of its commitment to ensure AAP, FAO adopted diverse means of reaching communities and beneficiaries with critical communications regarding the project interventions, standard operating procedures, as well as targeting and beneficiary grievance and redress mechanisms. The mechanisms put in place ensured information reached target communities and those in positions of authority. In addition, beneficiaries were informed of their rights during mobilization and registration. Consent was also sought from beneficiaries before data was collected and an explanation of how their data would be used, and with whom, was provided. No complaints were recorded during the project period.

Quality assurance was guaranteed by conducting daily data checks. Checks were carried out by contacting the survey team, receiving the data and providing feedback remotely. Similarly, for food security data collection and assessment in hard-to-reach areas, locally recruited and experienced enumerators supported FSNAU analysts to conduct telephone-based interviews with key informants and to hold remote focus group discussions. Local authorities and community leaders were informed prior to the start of each assessment to further ensure buy-in and support. Remote sensing data on rainfall, temperature and vegetation was also used as secondary data to enhance the data gathered through assessments in hard-to-reach areas.

### Gender equality

FSNAU household survey data was collected by disaggregating gender-related information, in an accessible and user-friendly manner. It was presented in IPC Population Tables, IPC Interactive Population Tables, FSNAU datasets, and Nutrition Summary Reports. Women were encouraged to take on supervisory and survey enumerator roles in the project.

## Key achievements, coordination and deviations

Within the context of the FAO Country Office in Somalia's strategy, the project aimed to ensure that both emergency and long-term responses were rooted in evidence-based, timely information and analysis on the food security and nutrition situation in Somalia. The project covered all regions of Somalia, as it was geared towards monitoring, assessing, and reporting on the food security and nutrition situation of the population of Somalia across all regions.

Food security and nutrition assessments and analyses were carried out in collaboration with line ministries at Federal Government and Federal Member States level and in Somaliland, food security and nutrition clusters, UN agencies and NGOs. Coordinating with various stakeholders positively impacted the use of FSNAU-led information and analyses for humanitarian decision-making, including the setting of targets and subsequent revisions and updates for food security and nutrition clusters under the 2023 HRP and 2024 HNRP. The project generated high quality information that was disseminated to various stakeholders and supported the capacity development of key Somali institutions. The project was granted a three-month no-cost extension, enabling the team to finalize activities and exceed expected results.

### Output 1. Timely food security and nutrition information and analysis are developed for early warning and early action, emergency response, as well as for policy and strategy development to inform long-term development planning and resilience

Through FSNAU activities, food security and nutrition information were applied to identify districts with households in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). FSNAU continued to monitor 79 markets across Somalia on a weekly basis in collaboration with the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, also known as FEWS NET, enabling FAO and partners to monitor the functionality of markets and prices of various basic commodities including cereals, pulses, vegetables, cooking oil and fuel. The resulting market datasets were made available to users through FSNAU's online market database<sup>9</sup>. This guided FAO in understanding market functionality, the availability of various agricultural and livestock inputs and triggers of price change at a given time. FAO was able to make informed decisions on the procurement of various items based on available market information from FSNAU and other sources such as the cash working group.

FSNAU also continued to monitor and report on climate fluctuations in Somalia. Accordingly, rainfall and vegetation cover across the country were monitored regularly on decadal and monthly bases and the resulting information and analyses was shared with stakeholders through climate updates.

In collaboration with government institutions and partners, FSNAU conducted two country-wide food security and nutrition assessments during 2023 (post-*Gu* and post-*Deyr* follow up), including 75 integrated food security, nutrition and mortality surveys and 12 mid-upper arm circumference-based nutrition assessments<sup>10</sup>. Results of the various assessments and subsequent analyses were disseminated to a broad range of users, including government line ministries, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, resource partners and other stakeholders.

Findings from the FSNAU-led seasonal assessments conducted in 2023 were used by the food security and nutrition clusters and the UN Country Team in the implementation of the 2023 Somalia HRP,

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<sup>9</sup> <https://fsnau.org/ids/index.php>

<sup>10</sup> Data collected as part of the FSNAU nutrition surveys was disaggregated by gender.

including the use of FSNAU data to update the 2023 HRP targets for the food security and nutrition clusters, the UN Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan, and for the preparation of the 2024 HNRP.

FSNAU also continued to monitor key risk factors and indicators related to food security and nutrition and made the updated information accessible to users through its Early Warning Early Action database and dashboard<sup>11</sup>. Early Warning Early Action time-series maps and charts were generated and disseminated monthly to a broad range of users. The Early Warning Early Action database and dashboard is regularly updated and used to support and inform timely humanitarian decision-making.

During the project period, FSNAU produced and disseminated a total of 99 information products (124 percent of the target). This was mainly due to the three-month no-cost extension granted by Sida, which coincided with the dissemination of the 2023 post-*Deyr* results. The products were disseminated to stakeholders through the FSNAU website<sup>12</sup> and electronic mailing lists.

Additionally, FSNAU gave a total of 28 presentations on assessment and IPC analyses results (187 percent of the target) to the government, the Humanitarian Country Team, food security and nutrition cluster partners, resource partners, and other stakeholders. Regular presentations took place following post-*Gu* and post-*Deyr* assessments, while other briefings were given ad hoc.

## Output 2. Food security and nutrition-related capacity development support is provided to Somali institutions

A total of 433 government and local university staff participated in seasonal assessments, subsequent IPC analyses and various training activities (Global IPC Level 1 Training, SMART Methodology, the IPC Certification Programme Level 1, and Food Security and Nutrition Indicators) during the project duration (346 percent of the target). The increased collaboration with the government combined with complementary funding from other resource partners and the no-cost extension enabled FSNAU to train and engage more people than was originally planned.

- A total of 49 government and local university staff participated in the 2022 post-*Deyr* IPC analyses workshops carried out in January 2023.
- A total of 293 government and local university staff participated in the April 2023 follow-up, 2023 post-*Gu* and post-*Deyr* seasonal assessments, and subsequent IPC Awareness and IPC analyses workshops.
- A total of 91 government and local university staff (29 of whom were women) received training on IPC, nutrition survey methodology and food security.
- Overall, 32 Somali government line ministries and local universities (107 percent of the target) benefitted from capacity strengthening support provided by FSNAU during the project.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://dashboard.fsnau.org/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://fsnau.org/>

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

Although difficult to quantify, the large volume of information and analysis produced under the project has contributed to saving lives and livelihoods during the 2023 humanitarian crisis in Somalia. Moreover, the support provided to government line ministries and local universities to acquire practical skills contributed to strengthening the capacity of Somali institutions.

### Sustainability

The Somali government and its institutions have limited technical and financial capacity to collect reliable food security and nutrition data in order to conduct timely, credible and independent analysis and inform decision-making. While this project facilitated the acquisition of practical skills, it will take several years and substantial investment in institutional capacity strengthening, as well as improved economic conditions, for Somali institutions to independently perform the tasks currently handled by FSNAU without external support.

### Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

1. FSNAU was unable to conduct surveys in some hard-to-reach areas due to continued insecurity across the country. For those areas, IPC Version 3.0 protocols were utilized when making inferences about outcomes based on limited data, data from adjacent but similar livelihoods, or data from recent assessments.
2. Complementary funding from other resource partners (including the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, Switzerland, Slovenia, the European Union, and the African Development Bank) arrived on time and enabled FSNAU to achieve greater outputs than originally envisaged during the planning of the project.
3. Due to a lack of approval by the Somaliland Ministry of Health Development, seasonal integrated food security, nutrition and mortality survey assessments were not conducted in 2022. However, a capacity development and collaboration agreement were reached in early-2023 that paved the way for collaboration between the Somaliland Ministry of Health Development and FSNAU. Accordingly, the Ministry conducted the 2023 post-*Gu* and post-*Deyr* integrated food security, nutrition and mortality surveys among displaced and urban populations in Hargeisa, with FSNAU providing technical and financial support. This was aligned with the overall capacity building plan for the gradual transition of the FSNAU functions to the government in seasonal assessments and subsequent analyses.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Somali food, nutrition and livelihood security is strengthened and resilience to future shocks is improved.				
<b>Outcome:</b> Emergency and longer-term sustainable responses are supported by providing timely information and analysis on the current and emerging food security, nutrition and livelihood situation across Somalia and capacity development support is provided to Somali institutions.				
<b>Output 1.</b> Timely food security and nutrition information and analysis are developed for early warning and early action, emergency response, as well as for policy and strategy development to inform long-term development planning and resilience	Number of seasonal food security and nutrition assessments conducted	2	2	2 (100%)
	Number of information products produced and disseminated	80	80	99 (124%)
	Number of presentations made to the government, UN, resource partners and other stakeholders	15	15	28 (187%)
<b>Output 2.</b> Food security and nutrition-related capacity development support is provided to Somali institutions	Number of government and local university staff trained and involved in seasonal assessment and analysis activities	125	125	433 (346%)
	Number of government institutions and local universities benefitting from FSNAU capacity development support	30	30	32 (107%)

## OSRO/SOM/016/SWE | Emergency livelihood assistance to severely drought-affected populations in Somalia

### Affected populations targeting and selection

Based on data obtained through the FSNAU project, FAO selected households from districts identified to have the highest number of households in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above). In addition, community and village selection committees supported the selection of beneficiaries based on the following criteria:

- Households who had exhausted their food reserve (grains), lost their crops or livestock due to drought and were experiencing poor food security and nutrition outcomes.
- Households with children under the age of five transitioning from feeding centres or who were malnourished.
- Households with pregnant and lactating women actively involved in crop production and acting as sole breadwinners.
- Households with no purchasing power of basic essential commodities and on the verge of, or had already, adopted negative coping mechanisms (skipping meals, disposing assets at low market value, abandoned livelihood activities or planning for involuntary migration) to make a living.
- Households with access to productive land: family or community land, share cropping (which is common in riverine areas).

After beneficiary registration, FAO conducted demographic and biodata verification through call centres, SMS and mobile money data triangulation. To minimize errors, agrodealers and mobile money operators were also employed to verify household data to complement FAO's internal checks. Verification ensured assistance reached the most vulnerable households, saving lives and enabling them to resume their livelihoods.

FAO utilized diverse communication channels, including print media (banners, pamphlets, leaflets), voice media (local radio stations), public forums and bulk SMS or voice messaging, to inform communities about the emergency response, targeting criteria, beneficiary packages and grievance-redress mechanisms. The FAO hotline was publicized for grievance handling.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

Working closely with the Protection Cluster in Somalia, FAO employed an inclusive, community-based approach to target beneficiaries, reaching marginalized populations in rural areas. Various mechanisms were mainstreamed in the project cycle such as PSEA, ensuring AAP through stringent procurement, implementation, project review and project monitoring. Beneficiary engagement was encouraged through the active participation and representation of women, young people and people living with disabilities in community project steering committees.

A variety of two-way communication channels were made available through FAO's complaints, compliance and feedback system, including a toll-free line and a full-fledged call centre managed by FAO. The FAO grievance and redress process was well-publicized, and staff were on call to handle day-to-day communications and issues that arose. Finding solutions and providing feedback was required for all calls that came in to ensure all issues were resolved. During the project cycle, FAO

received a total of 86 calls from households across target areas. Of the 86 households, 60.5 were calls from households headed by women, with most calls (52) relating to project queries.

FAO contracted four implementing partners to support Cash+ agriculture initiatives (Table 25). A total of 28 implementing partner staff (of whom seven women) received training on standard operating procedures, e-vouchers, PSEA, preventing assistance diversion and AAP. This was completed immediately following partner selection and before the start of the Cash+ agriculture intervention. Upon completion of this training, each partner was given two weeks to mobilize communities and disseminate the information verbally and through print media. Each service provider was expected to ensure that information reached communities and recipients.

Table 25. Implementing partners and the corresponding number of households reached

State	Region	District	NGO	Number of households
Hirshabelle	Hiraan	Buloburto	Rapid Relief Program	809
Hirshabelle	Hiraan	Jalalaqsi	Service for Rescue and Development Foundation	927
Southwest	Bay	Buur Hakaba	Somali Relief and Development Action	2 871
Southwest	Lower Shabelle	Marka	Access Development and Relief Organization	676
<b>Total</b>				<b>5 283</b>

## Gender equality

FAO adopted a three-step targeting criteria which ensured the inclusion of both men and women into its programming. Geographical targeting was adopted based on the FSNAU IPC data, followed by vulnerability and categorical targeting. By doing so, women had an equal chance to take part in the initiative. The project was designed to ensure gender mainstreaming at all levels, as it required at least 40 percent women engagement, with flexibility to reach more based on vulnerability. Community awareness informed programming, addressing both men's and women's needs in riverine and agropastoral areas. To ensure inclusivity, the FAO livelihood package included cereal, pulse and assorted vegetable seed. While men prefer cereal production, most women engage in pulse and vegetable production, with the harmonized package ensuring equal participation in livelihood activities and the possibility of opening avenues for income generation through the sale of surplus produce from their gardens.

FAO endeavoured to ensure all households had an equal chance to attend and take part in training on good agricultural practices and family nutrition. Fifty percent of beneficiaries attending the trainings in-person had to be women. To reinforce the training and enhance knowledge retention, FAO developed modules on good agricultural practices and nutrition which were broadcast at prime hours, with additional sessions for households who missed out. Through community feedback on radio programmes, FAO continuously improved the training modules based on the needs on the ground.



## Key achievements, coordination and deviations

FAO successfully reached 5 283 households (31 698 people), 101.1 percent of the target population in rainfed and riverine areas. Of the total households reached, 2 171 were headed by women, representing 41 percent.

### Livelihood inputs

The compounded effects of five consecutive poor rainy seasons had increased the destitution level of households in hard-to-reach rural areas. A lack of resources to return to production would have led to the abandonment of livelihood opportunities had FAO and partners not stepped in to provide support.

FAO used the electronic voucher modality to reach households with quality livelihood inputs to re-engage in livelihood activities. A total of 5 283 households received 45.6 tonnes of sorghum, 29.7 tonnes of maize, 63.4 tonnes of mung beans, 52.8 tonnes of cowpea, and 1.3 tonnes of assorted vegetable seeds; agricultural tools (forked hoes and traditional hoes) to support land preparation; and hermetic storage bags with a capacity of 50 kg/bag to enhance post-harvest handling of grains (cereals and pulses), as detailed in Table 26 and 27.

Table 26. Livelihood package per household per livelihood zone

Kit 1: Rainfed agropastoral livelihood package	Kit 2: Riverine livelihood package
12 kg sorghum (staple cereal) 10 kg cowpea (key source of protein) 12 kg mung bean	20 kg maize (staple cereal) 10 kg cowpea (key source of protein) 12 kg mung bean
240 g vegetable seed (capsicum/sweet pepper, carrot, lettuce, okra, onion, spinach, tomato and watermelon)	240 g vegetable seed (capsicum/sweet pepper, carrot, lettuce, okra, onion, spinach, tomato and watermelon)
2 hand tools: 1 hoe and 1 forked hoe	2 hand tools: 1 hoe and 1 forked hoe
10 hermetic storage bags	10 hermetic storage bags

Table 27. Type of input distributed with corresponding quantities and number of households

Type of input (seed)	Quantity of input (per household)	Total quantity distributed	Number of households
Sorghum	12 kg	45 576 kg	3 798
Maize	20 kg	29 700 kg	1 485
Mung bean	12 kg	63 396 kg	5 283
Cowpea	10 kg	52 830 kg	5 283
Assorted vegetables	0.24 kg	12 68 kg	5 283
Tools	2	10 566	5 283
Storage bags	10	52 830	5 283

Nutrition education was mainstreamed in the delivery of all emergency cash interventions, aiming to disseminate knowledge and information on nutrition and healthy diets across the life cycle of the project. Through its implementing partners, FAO trained 4 149 lead farmers and 210 nutrition champions. Under the supervision of implementing partner staff and the technical team, knowledge and skills gained were cascaded to the rest of the beneficiaries.

Nutrition education modules were also prepared, and nine radio episodes aired through local radio stations to share context-specific behaviour change and messages to address the underlying causes of malnutrition in Somalia. This was the most efficient and convenient method, as training was delivered during prime times with the highest levels of listeners tuning into radio stations either early in the morning or late evening.

Episodes were broken down into the following themes: (i) good nutrition for livestock; (ii) good nutrition for humans; (iii) nutrition in the life cycle; (iv) feeding the sick; (v) tracing the milk and the meat path; (vi) menu planning; (vii) food preparation and storage; (viii) personal and household hygiene; and (ix) keeping the environment clean.

### Unconditional cash (reprogramming)

FAO planned to reach vulnerable households with irrigation support in 2023, however, due to flash and localized flooding, there was a greater need to support flood-affected households with unconditional cash support, while encouraging them to shift to flood recession agriculture. Upon Sida's approval, 809 households (of whom 360 women-headed) from Bulo Buto district were reached with a one-off payment of USD 78 to enable them to meet immediate needs at the peak of flooding. Post-distribution monitoring results indicate that 98.5 percent of households purchased food items, soap or detergent, and water. Overall, USD 63 102 was distributed to recipients through mobile money transfer (Table 28).

Table 28. Number of households reached with unconditional cash support disaggregated by gender

District	Village	Number of households reached	Number of women-headed households	Percentage of women-headed households	Number of male-headed households	Percentage of male-headed households
Bulo Burto	Boocaley	69	27	39.1	42	60.9
	Burcadiin	105	32	30.5	73	69.5
	Dhagaxyaale	114	65	57.0	49	43.0
	Gali Gubadle	105	39	37.1	66	62.9
	Gariirey	88	49	55.7	39	44.3
	Gumarre	108	49	45.4	59	54.6
	Mubaarak	100	35	35.0	65	65.0
	Quraclay	44	24	54.5	20	45.5
	Shiin Qoraxsin	76	40	52.6	36	47.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>809</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>55.5%</b>

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

Overall, beneficiaries reported higher yields for both maize and sorghum at 1.41 tonnes/ha and 1.23 tonnes/ha per household, respectively, compared to non-beneficiaries who averaged at 1 tonne/ha and 1.15 tonnes/ha for both maize and sorghum, respectively. The higher yield among beneficiaries can likely be attributed to the distribution of improved quality seed and enhanced agricultural practices acquired during training to mitigate threats from pests, diseases and weeds by FAO and its partners.

- Intercropping was practiced by beneficiaries at 52.6 percent compared to 42.7 percent of non-beneficiaries. This shows a distinction between the cropping style adopted by beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.
- Availability of improved cereal storage bags, i.e. hermetic bags, and training on good agricultural practices including better preservation and storage of produce was critical in achieving a 10.7 percent reduction in post-harvest losses amongst beneficiary households.
- Beneficiary households recorded a 17.2 percent increase in the proportion of those falling under the 'acceptable' FCS category. In addition, non-beneficiary households recorded an FCS mean of 43.6, while beneficiary households had a higher mean of 44.1. This indicates that more beneficiary households were food secure.
- At the project end, beneficiary household's dietary diversity score was seven, a two-point improvement from the baseline. This indicates an increase in the number of food groups consumed by beneficiary households.
- There was a five-point improvement in the reduced coping strategies index amongst beneficiary households at the end of the project. Relying on less preferred or less expensive foods and limiting the portion sizes at mealtimes were the main food coping strategies employed by beneficiary households at the end of the project.

### Sustainability

FAO carried out capacity building for its implementing partners and other stakeholders both before and during activity implementation. Knowledge is wealth and if put into practice, it can change behaviours and practices leading to the adoption of sustainable practices for food production and family nutrition. The training of NGO agronomists and nutritionists, airing of modules through local radio stations and inviting live subject matter specialists on air (during the live broadcasting of agriculture and nutrition modules) promoted the retention of information which could be used and developed further for enhanced crop production at household and community level.

### Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

FAO delayed the distribution of livelihood inputs due to a change in climatic conditions, "super El Niño", which resulted in localized flooding along the Juba and Shabelle rivers and flash floods in the Bay and Bakool regions. Due to this, FAO was unable to issue livelihood inputs as they would not be utilized by households for the intended purpose. Most households could not engage in crop production due to flooding. In addition, there was mass displacement in many rural areas and therefore, it was not guaranteed that households would store seed under optimal conditions free

from moisture and pest infestation. FAO distributed the inputs at various agrodealer stores in advance to enable households to practice flood recession agriculture from December 2023 to January 2024.

The security situation remained stable. However, mass displacement occurred due to flooding at the project sites. FAO did not face any challenges in relation to price inflation for various agricultural inputs as most were procured before the trade disruptions caused by floods.



*Drought-stricken households receive agricultural inputs to resume production.*

For five consecutive seasons, Somalia faced a devastating drought which caused widespread food insecurity, forcing many farmers to abandon their land. In response, through Sida, FAO supported 1 200 drought-stricken farming households in Bulo Burte district with inputs including maize, mung bean, cowpea and vegetable seeds, as well as farm tools and hermetic storage bags. The agricultural inputs enabled vulnerable households to restore their food security by helping them to resume production and feed their households. According to Saciido Omar, a rural farmer who benefitted from the project, “The inputs from FAO have made a significant impact in our community, where we now cultivate crops and hope to achieve long-term success.” Saciido's family lost their livestock and crops during the drought and were later affected again by the floods after the rains came. They were forced to flee their home and live in the highlands.

Muhumed Sheikh is another beneficiary from the district who was supported through the project. Five seasons of punishing drought dried up the river and shrivelled crops on his farm in the east of Jamao Mubarak, where he lives with his 15 family members and another five relatives. When the rains came, it swept away harvests, ruined rainfed irrigation channels and forced families to wade through waters infested with crocodiles and other wild animals to find safety. “When the drought hit, everyone adapted in different ways,” said Muhumed. “Some started to gather and sell firewood, others laboured on neighbours’ fields for money, and still others live off assistance from relatives.”

The project had a positive impact on the lives of farmers in Bulo Burto district. The seeds and tools are helping farmers to plant crops. “As a farmer, the assistance has been beneficial. We were given seed for maize, beans and vegetable crops, as well as agricultural equipment. We value the support greatly since we lost everything during the drought,” said Muhumed.

FAO is working with the Federal Government of Somalia and other partners to develop long-term solutions to the challenges farmers in Somalia face due to climate change. FAO aims to build resilience and improve food security for rural farmers like Saciido and Muhumed to enable them to withstand and recover from increasingly frequent climate shocks.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Life-saving emergency agricultural livelihood input packages are provided to severely drought-affected agro/pastoralists and riverine communities.				
<b>Outcome:</b> Severely drought-affected households have improved access to food.				
<b>Output 1.</b> 5 000 riverine and agropastoral households are supported to resume food production	Total quantity of crop inputs provided disaggregated by type of input	0	Sorghum: 12 kg Maize: 20 kg Cowpea: 10 kg Mung bean: 10 kg Assorted vegetable seeds: 240 g Hoe: 1 Forked hoe: 1 Hermetic bags: 10	Sorghum: 12 kg Maize: 20 kg Cowpea: 10 kg Mung bean: 10 kg Assorted vegetable seeds: 240 g Hoe: 1 Forked hoe: 1 Hermetic bags: 10
	Number of households supported with crop production re-engagement package	0	5 000	5 283
	Number of beneficiary households trained on good agricultural and nutrition practices	0	5 000	5 283
	Number of households reached with unconditional cash support (reprogramming) <sup>13</sup>	809	0	809
	Total number of irrigation hours	0	18	0

<sup>13</sup> This indicator was added to the results assessment framework following reprogramming.

# Syrian Arab Republic

## Programmatic Overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Funds provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/SYR/034/SWE	4 845 000	500 000	AIRC
OSRO/SYR/035/SWE	4 845 000	500 000	AIRC
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 690 000</b>	<b>1 million</b>	-

The two projects funded by Sida in the Syrian Arab Republic were in direct response to the Syrian Arab Republic Earthquake Flash Appeal, launched on 14 February 2023 in the aftermath of the earthquake that left more than 4 500 people dead and over 10 000 injured in the northwest. Through this appeal, the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster aimed to assist 4 million vulnerable people by means of food assistance in the first three months following the earthquake. The projects were aligned with the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Response Plan Objective 2, “Increase resilience of affected communities by improving access to livelihood opportunities and basic services, especially among the most vulnerable households and communities”. They were also in line with Priority Area 3 of FAO’s Strategic Framework (2022–2031), “Better Life”, by addressing the food and agriculture crisis through these interventions.

Building on the activities of the Sida-funded projects, other projects were carried out, including one funded by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to build local resilience by providing herders supported under OSRO/SYR/034/SWE with training through FFSS. Herders were taught how to improve their management practices and make their own feed. The project also included the provision of artificial insemination to restore the animals lost during the earthquake or because of the crisis.

The projects adopted a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach and provided urgent livelihood and nutrition assistance to target areas facing, or at risk, of acute food insecurity, ensuring populations were equipped to better manage future risks and shocks. By ensuring people affected by the earthquake have equitable access to inputs, such as feed, projects such as these are an essential step to allow development efforts to move ahead, as well as to mitigate any potential unrest in the local communities.

### OSRO/SYR/034/SWE | Emergency livestock support for earthquake affected farmers in Syria (Aleppo)

#### Affected populations targeting and selection

FAO conducted field visits to conflict-affected areas in Aleppo, where the team held focus group discussions with the local population and local technical specialists. The aim of the consultations was to identify priorities within local communities and develop solutions to address people’s needs. FAO ensured the engagement and participation of various affected populations, including women, people



with disabilities and the youth, to ensure their specific needs were reflected in the project design. Locally agreed upon selection criteria for animal feed were developed by FAO's project team. A selection committee was established under clear guidelines, consisting of local leaders, farmers, extension agents and representatives of vulnerable groups, as well as the implementing partner, the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Agriculture. Several criteria were used to target households:

- affected by the earthquake (physically or financially);
- small-scale herders (with 10–15 sheep or 2–3 cows);
- special focus would be given to households hosting IDPs;
- special focus to women-headed households (30 percent); and
- beneficiaries with disabilities would also be priority.

Following completion of the beneficiary list, it was reviewed by the FAO Resilience Officer in Aleppo and the monitoring and evaluation team to ensure selected beneficiaries complied with the selection criteria. The project was then presented to the target communities through an FAO Resilience Officer and the implementing partner, whereby the project objectives, activities and criteria for selection were outlined. The project team encountered a challenge due to the significant demand in the area in comparison to available resources. In consultation with the local community, FAO identified the need to support host communities sheltering IDPs to increase production to meet their own needs, as well as the needs of IDPs. Current FAO projects have taken this into account, targeting host communities hosting or supporting IDPs.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

To ensure compliance with the Organization's code of conduct, FAO carried out capacity building and training for four implementing partner staff, particularly on PSEA, AAP and community-based complaint mechanisms. An AAP system was implemented, including facilitating access to information for beneficiaries and a complaint/feedback mechanism to ensure two-way communication with beneficiaries to gauge their feedback and improve the implementation of activities. In addition, the project dedicated a phone number for beneficiaries to lodge their complaints, either through direct calls, email, or using WhatsApp. The numbers were distributed to beneficiaries using leaflets that also included information on the assistance provided and contact information for any complaints or suggestions. No complaints were received in relation to the project.

### Gender equality

The project incorporated gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle, stemming from the robust PSEA mechanism put in place by FAO to create an environment where beneficiaries, particularly those most vulnerable in their communities, can access services free from abuse and exploitation. Further, FAO technical staff and implementing partner staff upheld a common set of standards to beneficiaries in the locations they were assigned. Traditionally, women have been the practitioners of livestock farming in the Syrian Arab Republic. As such, the need to include women in the design of the project was taken into consideration. Distribution sites were designed, and collection points and times organized to minimize risk and provide a safe space for women to receive support. Further, the training was carried out to facilitate their participation, as access to information is challenging for women.

## Key achievements, coordination and deviations

### Output 1. The livestock production capacity of 1 200 pastoral households is improved

The project successfully reached 1 200 vulnerable livestock-keeping households, 433 women-headed. This directly impacted 7 200 people across the districts of Al Bab, Jebel Samaan, As Sfira and Menbij in the Governorate of Aleppo. A total of 600 tonnes of feed were distributed, with each household receiving 500 kg of nutrient rich fodder, which was enough to feed two cows for one month. This support enabled vulnerable households to preserve their livelihoods and avoid the adoption of negative coping mechanisms, such as selling off their animals or slaughtering them.

In addition, households also received training on areas such as good husbandry practices, balanced animal nutrition, and dairy production practices. To supplement the training, 1 200 awareness brochures were printed and distributed amongst participants to be used as educational material. The brochures were developed by experts in the field and approved by FAO.

The project focused particularly on vulnerable female farmers who were the breadwinners for their families. In effect, households headed by women who were supported by the project accounted for 47 percent of total beneficiary households in Menbij district. While in the district of Al-Bab, women-headed households accounted for 28 percent, in Jebel Samaan 32 percent, and in As-Safira, 36 percent of total beneficiary households.

Project implementation was carried out in collaboration with the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Agriculture. It was selected as an implementing partner based on its technical experience in relation to the type of support the project aimed to provide, capacity to access targeted locations, knowledge of the local context and previous cooperation with the UN. The work was carried out in coordination with local community members and in support of local technical staff.

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

Post-distribution monitoring results indicate that about 85 percent of beneficiaries confirmed that the body weight and milk production of their animals increased due to the concentrate fodder provided. This positively impacted the health and nutritional status of their animals (cows and sheep). Daily milk production increased by about 30 percent and 40 percent for sheep and cows, respectively, while animal body weight increased by about 10–20 percent on average for both sheep and cows.

The provision of emergency quality feed assisted households in protecting their productive assets and revenue by selling milk and dairy products. This not only helped households meet their food needs, but also ensured the food security of their families and any IDPs hosted. It also contributed to the continued supply of milk and dairy products in metropolitan areas. Additionally, by improving animal health and production, the project contributed to preventing households from adopting negative coping mechanisms like selling their livestock assets for food.

## Sustainability

As well as the distribution of quality feed, the project included a training component designed to ensure the sustainability of the achieved results. Awareness raising also took place at the distribution centre on the day the animal feed was distributed. Those trained can, in turn, contribute to the transfer of knowledge to their peers and communities.

## Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

FAO established a control and monitoring system to identify risks prior to the implementation of activities and applied mitigation measures where appropriate. This enabled both FAO and the implementing partner to react in a timely manner and reduce the impact of such risks. Challenges that arose during project implementation included:

1. The fluctuating exchange rate. With the view to mitigate the impact of drastic devaluation of the Syrian pound and subsequent market price volatility, the contracting award was made in United States dollars which permitted payments to be processed using the current exchange rate.
2. The high cost of animal feed and increased cost of fuel, coupled with a long approval process to transport the feed to the targeted areas. FAO advocated the importance of the project with concerned authorities to facilitate the movement of the feed and deliver it to those in need.



*A farmer checks and feeds her calve in a barn partially destroyed by the earthquake. Hama, the Syrian Arab Republic.*

“Thank God, our cows are alive! They were not injured or killed in the earthquake, but the barns were damaged. We hope to fix them once we earn extra money,” said Ismaeel Al Mohammad (51), cattle-owner and breadwinner of his family of six.

On 6 February 2023, the powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit both the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye left thousands of people in a state of shock and trauma. This was followed by a second 6.8 magnitude earthquake that hit on the 20 February 2023, causing the death of almost 6 000 people and injuring more than 12 800 people in the Syrian Arab Republic. Many families lost their breadwinners, adding to the weight of enduring over 12 years of crisis and struggling to survive. This compounded their financial hardships and stretched their already limited resources to a breaking point.

Although the earthquake caused minor destruction to buildings in rural areas compared to cities, farmers and livestock keepers suffered damage and loss to their livelihoods. Animal pens and sheds were destroyed, and greenhouses, food processing sites, mills, water wells, canals, dams and other irrigation infrastructures damaged. This had a serious impact on agricultural production and put the most vulnerable people’s livelihoods at dire risk.

The small-scale livestock keepers in rural Aleppo who managed to save their animals by releasing them into the lands during the earthquake had to find ways to either secure fodder for their animals to sustain milk production or save money to spend on basic living needs, and host displaced relatives from cities coming to rural areas.

Ismael Al Mohammed received fodder and participated in awareness sessions carried out by FAO, with Sida's financial support, on how to sustain his cows' production during such difficult times. He said, "I have two cows. We depend on the milk they produce for our consumption and to sell the surplus for income. With the 500 kg of fodder we received from FAO, we managed to save some money to spend on other things, such as hospitality for our relatives or to buy food."

Mahmoud Al Ayoub (50) is another livestock keeper from rural Aleppo, who is grateful for the survival of his only two cows. He spoke about the challenges of managing his savings at such difficult times, and not having enough income to meet his family's needs, "The fodder we received from FAO came at the right time and it sustained milk production for our consumption. After the earthquake, we could not afford to buy fodder from the market as we had to think about how to spend our savings wisely in such a challenging time." He added that more support is needed for vulnerable farmers to improve their living situation, as the prices of production inputs and food items are soaring.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Contribute to improved food security and nutrition for targeted beneficiaries and their local communities.				
<b>Outcome:</b> The local food production for 1 200 livestock keeping households affected by the earthquake is restored.				
<b>Output 1.</b> The livestock production capacity of 1 200 pastoral households is improved	Number of feed by tonnes procured	0	600	600
	Number of households that received feed	0	1 200	1 200

## OSRO/SYR/035/SWE | Emergency agricultural support for earthquake-affected farmers and livestock keepers in northwest Syria

### Affected populations targeting and selection

To ensure transparency and fairness in the selection process, community consultations were carried out with local community leaders and members to ensure a participatory process. Communities actively participated in each phase of the project by means of focus group discussions, participatory assessments and bilateral consultations whereby their inputs were solicited and integrated into the overall project design. Based on the results of the FAO-led needs assessment, households were selected based on the following criteria:

- affected by the earthquake (physical and/or financial);
- special focus given to households hosting IDPs; and
- special focus on women-headed households.

During the preparatory phase of each activity and following the geotargeting process undertaken to select the most vulnerable communities, priority was given to women-headed households, who are disproportionately affected and more likely to adopt negative coping mechanisms. Moreover, certain livestock-based activities in the northwest of the Syrian Arab Republic, such as small-scale chicken production, is traditionally practiced by women. This was taken into consideration during the design of project activities, particularly the Newcastle disease (ND) vaccination campaign.

Table 29. Areas covered by the project

Governorate	District	Total beneficiary households
Aleppo	Afrin	5 459
	Al Bab	1 557
	A'zaz	424
	Jarablus	2 677
	Jebel Saman	1 241
Idlib	Al Ma'ra	25
	Ariha	1 206
	Harim	2 985
	Idleb	1 985
	Jisr-Ash- Shugur	1 319
<b>Total</b>		<b>18 878</b>

The project collaborated with local partner NGOs, *Ataa Insani Yardimlasma Dernegi* (ATAA), *Uluslararası İnsani Yardım Derneği* (IYD), and *Bahar Dernegi*, who facilitated its implementation, ensured coordination, identified the target locations and communities, and facilitated community mobilization. Moreover, baseline studies, field studies, as well as post-distribution monitoring and end-line assessments were carried out. As part of the project, the capacities of 755 field experts were enhanced through training of trainers. Twenty-three local veterinarians and veterinary technicians received training on best practices in lumpy skin disease (LSD) vaccine cold-chain management and administration; 360 experts (of whom three women) were trained on ND vaccine management and administration, as well as the proper targeting of chicken based on health conditions and age; and 12 agricultural experts were trained on enhanced agricultural practices, including land preparation,



fertilization, irrigation, pest management, harvesting and post harvesting. The knowledge acquired by trainers was then transferred to target beneficiaries.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

During the implementation of project activities, a variety of protocols were established to ensure transparency and accountability towards affected populations. Information on the project objectives and activities were disseminated through leaflets and community meetings. Feedback mechanisms were made available to ensure that beneficiaries were duly informed on how to raise concerns and file complaints, as well as to provide suggestions and other feedback to FAO and its implementing partners. Feedback received from beneficiaries via suggestion boxes, the FAO hotline and regular community-level feedback sessions was collected and tracked. Complaints were handled ensuring the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

A total of 90 complaints were registered across the project's livestock activities. Approximately 90 percent of the feedback received was provided by non-beneficiaries expressing their interest in being included in a support programme. A reported 6 percent of feedback registered were complaints from beneficiaries explicitly expressing dissatisfaction. The remaining 4 percent was registered as beneficiaries' requests for information, mainly related to the specificities of the support provided.

All complaints were analysed by FAO experts and appropriate replies were sent to beneficiaries, resolving technical issues or informing them that they would be included in future programmes if they met the access requirements. The negative feedback was mainly related to the exclusion of beneficiaries from the vaccination campaign, generally related to the ineligibility of cows in the LSD campaign due to pregnancy and/or young or old age, ineligibility of unhealthy chicken or those out of the age range in the ND campaign, and the common side effects of livestock vaccines. Regarding vegetable component, 90.35 percent of beneficiaries said that the quantities of inputs distributed satisfied their families' needs, 9.41 percent said it was insufficient, and 0.25 percent were not sure.

### Gender equality

Gender mainstreaming was carried out at every stage of the project, ensuring the specific needs and requirements of women were taken into consideration. Women were actively engaged from the outset, from community consultations to the design and implementation of the project. For example, as mentioned previously, the practice of small-scale chicken production by women traditionally was taken into account when designing project activities like the ND vaccination campaign.

### Key achievements, coordination and deviations

The project successfully reached 5 300 vulnerable farming households affected by the earthquake, 816 of whom were headed by women. Overall, 27 667 people (14 263 women) across the target areas were directly supported through the provision of essential agricultural inputs and vaccination of key livestock assets including cattle and chickens.

## Output 1. 5 300 IDPs and landless host community households have improved diets and income generation opportunities, through the establishment of home gardens for summer vegetables

FAO and *Bahar Dernegi* distributed summer vegetable kits to all 5 300 of the planned farming households for the cultivation of small vegetable gardens. A total of 5 300 farmers from 79 affected communities were trained in enhanced agricultural practices including land preparation, fertilization, irrigation, pest management, harvesting and post-harvest care. The training was delivered through interactive sessions that combined theoretical knowledge, practical demonstrations and hands-on activities. Group discussions were also carried out to encourage knowledge-sharing and collaborative problem-solving.

Table 30. Contents of summer vegetable kits distributed

Input	Quantity per household	Total quantity distributed
Local hybrid cucumber seed	60 seeds	318 000 seeds
Local hybrid zucchini seed	60 seeds	318 000 seeds
Local parsley seed	500 g	2 650 kg
Local bean seed	500 g	2 650 kg
Organic fertilizer enriched with humic and fulvic acids	1 L	5 300 L

Under Output 1, the distribution of seeds and fertilizer, as well as the delivery of relevant trainings, was crucial in improving household nutrition and enabling beneficiary households to diversify their income opportunities.

## Output 2. 5 500 earthquake-affected livestock keepers have access to continuously available milk for household consumption, small-scale processing and marketing, securing income generation especially for women

FAO, in coordination with its local implementing partners (ATAA and IYD) supported 3 954 livestock keeping households in total, 437 of whom were headed by women. As part of the support provided, 13 731 LSD vaccine doses were administered to 13 731 cattle in total.

The planned target was underachieved because of the decrease in the number of cattle-breeders in the target areas, mainly due to the high price of fodder and limited or lack of access to markets, as well as a lack of access to several communities due to the security environment at the time of project implementation.

Awareness-raising on LSD and foot-and-mouth disease was also carried out through field visits. This was complimented by the training of 25 local animal health technicians on vaccination campaign principles and vaccine management prior to commencing the vaccination campaign to maximize its efficiency and effectiveness.

The overall objective of the LSD vaccination campaign was to safeguard livestock assets and consequently, the livelihoods of vulnerable smallholder dairy farmers and pastoralists. In doing so, the project contributed to ensuring the availability of milk, meat and dairy products in the affected communities, thereby improving household food security and nutrition.

Cost savings over the course of project implementation (due to currency depreciation) enabled FAO to repurpose project funds towards co-financing a critical ND vaccination campaign, together with funds received from the Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Through IYD International Humanitarian Relief Association, FAO carried out the ND vaccination campaign to stabilize and increase levels of small-scale chicken production among the most vulnerable and crisis-affected households. The campaign contributed to supporting household food consumption and nutrition by ensuring access to poultry, as well as providing households an opportunity to earn an income by selling their produce in local markets.

FAO vaccinated 293 678 chickens belonging to 9 624 households, of whom 1 530 were headed by women. The number of chickens requiring vaccination in the area was significantly lower than expected. In view of this, unused vaccines are currently being stored for future vaccination campaigns, considering that immunity lasts for six months.

Additionally, 720 village vaccinators (of whom 5 were women) were trained on the use of ND vaccine and the basics of chicken management. This was crucial in ensuring the sustainability of the activity and served as an investment for similar future interventions.

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

The overall impact of the project can be viewed through the lens of a broader humanitarian and programmatic perspective. FAO ensured consistent field data collection through the implementing partners operating in the targeted areas, with baseline and endline surveys conducted routinely. This enabled close monitoring of the project's impact, and several conclusions can be drawn from the post-distribution findings:

- Approximately 95 percent of beneficiaries reported being “highly satisfied” with the LSD vaccination campaign and underlined its importance in safeguarding their livelihoods. Beneficiaries acknowledged the efficacy of the LSD vaccination campaign and its significant contribution towards strengthening the immunity of their cows. This is of particular importance given that cows are key productive assets and represent an important source of income for the target households.
- Prior to project implementation, beneficiaries reported limited access to essential agricultural resources, hindering their capacity to engage in productive agricultural activities, impacting their livelihoods and food security. Through the provision of vegetable kits, beneficiaries reported an increase in their production capacity, as well as their ability to feed their families and generate income from surplus produce.
- Beneficiaries also reported limited knowledge and skills regarding modern agricultural practices prior to the project. Following implementation, greater knowledge and skills through the training provided resulted in improved agricultural practices, subsequently increasing yields, enhancing food security and potentially boosting household incomes.

### Sustainability

Project activities were centred on the distribution of key inputs and livestock vaccinations, complemented by relevant capacity building. The summer vegetable production component included training to improve the capacity of farmers to engage in home-based vegetable production. The

transfer of knowledge and good practices through the trainings of local experts and beneficiaries contributed to broadening the scope of the project activities. The mass vaccination of livestock aimed to protect targeted livestock communities and prevent the spread of LSD by achieving 70 to 80 percent vaccination coverage of the total livestock population. This ensured the required level of herd protection for the whole area. The ND vaccination campaign reached 100 percent of smallholders' chicken in the northwest of the Syrian Arab Republic. This is crucial to minimize the incidence of outbreaks of the disease and to secure smallholders' productive assets. In addition, the two vaccination campaigns included strong awareness raising components, as well as the training of village vaccinators on vaccination conservation and administration, strengthening local capacities in a sustainable manner.

### Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

Challenges that arose and FAO's response during project implementation included:

1. The deterioration of the security situation caused by factional violence on the ground significantly impacted cross-border operations and access to target areas. As such, delays, as well as the postponement or relocation of activities (on a case-by-case basis) occurred. Close and regular monitoring of the security situation by FAO security focal points was necessary throughout the duration of the project.
2. The risk of summer vegetable production inputs arriving too late for planting season was high, as early procurement planning did not guarantee the timely delivery of inputs. To avoid this, the distribution of inputs was rescheduled until the following season, allowing for a safe timeframe for purchasing, delivering and planting the seeds. Moreover, planning for alternatives (such as voucher schemes) was essential to support vulnerable farmers in an emergency context.
3. Due to the extended procurement process and the supplier's inability to meet the agreed delivery timeline, the delivery date for the vaccines had to be postponed aligning with the seasonal schedule for LSD vaccination during late winter and spring. Close collaboration with the Procurement Unit at FAO headquarters was necessary to expedite the procurement process.
4. The drastic devaluation of the Turkish Lira affected project budgeting. However, the depreciation of inputs purchased locally resulted in unexpected savings which enabled the implementation of the ND vaccination campaign.

Despite the challenges and obstacles faced, activities were fully implemented, and the project objectives were achieved. Lessons learned have been duly documented to minimize the recurrence of risks and reduce their impact on both FAO's programme in the northwest and the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.



*A dairy cow belonging to a smallholder farmer in Maaret Tamsrin, Idlib governorate, is vaccinated against LSD as part of FAO's campaign in the northwest.*

In 2019, a major transboundary animal disease outbreak occurred in the Syrian Arab Republic, resulting in significant losses to milk production and cattle herds. With the generous support of the Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium and Sweden, FAO successfully completed a mass LSD vaccination campaign to protect the entire smallholder dairy-cattle population across 35 accessible subdistricts in Aleppo and Idlib governorates. In close collaboration with its Syrian NGO partners, IYD and ATAA, FAO successfully vaccinated 27 754 cattle belonging to 7 906 households, exceeding the minimum 80 percent coverage required to prevent outbreaks of the disease.

As part of the campaign, 23 local veterinarians and veterinary technicians received training on best practices in vaccine administration and cold-chain management, and all beneficiary households received vital information on dairy cattle health management.

Dairy cows are the most valuable livestock assets owned by smallholder farmers in the northwest of the Syrian Arab Republic. Cow's milk is a regular income source for many households across the country, particularly for rural women. It is also a key contributor to household nutrition. However, awareness of LSD is limited amongst smallholder farmers, as highlighted by one beneficiary.

Muhammed Shuhud (31), from Aulan village, northeastern Aleppo governorate said, "Last year we suffered from a disease, and we did not know what it was. The disease caused nodules in the animal's body. Recently, we learned that this was LSD. No treatment for this disease was available. We lost a calf weighing just 400 kg. We isolated him from the herd and did our best to find a treatment. The problem is that LSD does not respond to any treatment; the animal needs to be vaccinated beforehand. Through FAO's campaign we learned about this vaccine and our cows were vaccinated. It is good that the vaccine is safe and does not affect pregnancy, birth, the ability to walk, or anything else."

The LSD vaccination campaign is among FAO's many efforts to protect productive assets and build the resilience of vulnerable households in this highly affected part of the country. Moreover, in an environment of decreasing humanitarian funding, it has become even more critical to protect rural livelihoods and strengthen the capacity of households to contribute to their own food security. FAO aims to continue to protect livestock in the northwest against other transboundary animal diseases, including peste des petits ruminants, sheep and goat pox, foot-and-mouth disease and ND.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Agricultural productive assets of smallholder farmers, host community members and IDPs, in northwest Syria are restored	% of target beneficiary families with improved access to food availability and improved nutritional status	Post-disaster needs assessment results	20%	25%
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Capacity of smallholder farmers, host community and IDPs to establish home gardens and produce summer vegetables for family consumption and for income generation, especially by women, is increased	Number of established vegetable gardens	Post-disaster needs assessment results	5 300 gardens established	5 300 gardens established
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Capacity of smallholder dairy farmers, (of whom about 16 percent are IDPs) is protected against loss of dairy animals and disruption of milk production from seasonal outbreaks of livestock epidemics	Number of dairy cattle vaccinated against LSD	0	15 000 cattle vaccinated	13 731 cattle vaccinated
	Number of chickens vaccinated against ND	0	2 million chickens vaccinated	293 678 chickens vaccinated
<b>Output 1.</b> 5 300 IDPs and landless host-community household have improved diets and income generation opportunities, through the establishment of home gardens for summer vegetables	Number of household vegetable gardens supported	0	5 300 summer vegetable kits	5 300 summer vegetable kits
<b>Output 2.</b> 5 500 earthquake-affected livestock keepers have access to continuously available milk for household consumption, small-scale processing and marketing, securing income generation especially for women	Number of cattle vaccinated against LSD	0	15 000 doses of LSD vaccines	13 731 doses of LSD vaccines
	Number of chickens vaccinated against ND	0	2 million chickens	293 678 chickens vaccinated



# Türkiye



Residents of the earthquake-stricken area gather among the ruins of their homes, attempting to salvage what they can.

## Programmatic overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Fund provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/TUR/009/SWE	4 845 000	500 000	AIRC

The project was fully aligned with the Türkiye Earthquake Flash Appeal 2023 and FAO’s Earthquake Response and Recovery Plan 2023–2026. It was also designed in accordance with FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022–2031, particularly to Better Life, Priority Area 3, “Agriculture and food emergencies” and indirectly to Better Production, Priority Area 4, “Small-scale producers’ equitable access to resources”; and Better Life, Priority Area 1, “Gender equality and rural women’s empowerment”; Priority Area 2, “Inclusive rural transformation”; and Priority Area 4, “Resilient agrifood systems”.

It was successfully implemented in coordination with all sector partners and stakeholders to prevent duplication and increase the effectiveness of the interventions. The project was launched simultaneously with another SFERA project funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, which shared the same objectives and outcomes. This parallel project covered the provinces of Adiyaman, Gaziantep and Malatya, enabling FAO to provide much needed support to the areas most impacted by the earthquakes. The response was designed based on findings gathered from consultation meetings with stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and its provincial directorates, the Southeastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration, the Federation of Food and Drink Industry Associations of Türkiye, UN agencies, and the Union of Turkish Chambers of Agriculture, among others. In addition, assessment reports and analyses produced by FAO, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Turkkonfed, and consultations with local and central level experts informed the development of the project.

## OSRO/TUR/009/SWE | Safeguarding the livelihoods of rural households in areas of Türkiye affected by the earthquake

### Affected populations targeting and selection

The project was shaped by a needs assessments conducted by FAO and other organizations, alongside field observations by FAO personnel. The assessments indicated a major disruption to the capacity for agrifood production of the active earthquake region, primarily due to difficulties in accessing agricultural inputs. Furthermore, FAO field teams noted significant hardships among rural populations in meeting their basic needs, which could potentially drive migration from the region, further impairing agricultural production and food security in the long run. These findings were supported by studies developed by other organizations<sup>14</sup> and by discussions in the sectoral and intersectoral groups established within the earthquake response mechanism.

A multilayer beneficiary selection approach was employed to ensure the identification and selection of the most vulnerable people in the target areas. This process was handled collaboratively by FAO and its implementing partners, including the provincial directorates of agriculture, municipalities and local partners. The criteria set was developed in consultation and coordination with governmental and sectoral partners.

The criteria and indicators presented in Table 31 were identified for each type of assistance provided within the project. These indicators are grouped into two categories: mandatory and prioritization. This classification required that only individuals who met all the mandatory criteria were eligible for support. Additionally, among eligible individuals, those who met the second set of criteria (prioritization) were to be prioritized if there were more eligible households than the number of targeted beneficiaries.

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<sup>14</sup> The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Türkiye Earthquakes Joint Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Needs Assessment Report, March 2023; Presidency of Strategy and Budget, Türkiye Earthquakes Recovery and Reconstruction Assessment, March 2023; International Organization for Migration, 2023 Earthquakes Displacement Overview, March 2023; and the World Food Programme, the Turkish Red Crescent and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Minimum Expenditure Basket Methodology and Analysis for Türkiye Earthquake Emergency, March 2023

Table 31. Criteria and indicators for beneficiary selection

Type of assistance	Type of criteria	Indicator
Unconditional cash	Mandatory	Living in rural areas (residential areas with a population of less than 20 000 people)
		Living in areas that were most adversely affected by the earthquakes identified as per FAO assessment results
		Residents of affected areas who had not migrated to other provinces and were actively seeking livelihood support through appeals to the government
		Having a valid ID card in the most affected earthquake provinces (for Syrians under Temporary Protection and International Protection Applicants and Status Holders; registered with the Provincial Directorates of Migration Management)
	Prioritization	Residential unit was moderately or severely damaged as per report by the authorities
		Living in inadequate shelters, such as tents or makeshift housing
		Women-headed households
		Household with a pregnant member
		Households with a disabled member (a medical certificate showing disability to align with the national system)
		Households with elderly dependents
		Households that had lost family members in the earthquake
		Engaged in agriculture, livestock, forestry, beekeeping or fisheries
		Working as a seasonal agricultural worker
		Households who had lost their agricultural assets (such as livestock, barns, tractors, other assets etc.)
Agricultural inputs	Mandatory	Living in rural areas (residential area with population of less than 20 000 people)
		Living in areas that were most adversely affected by the earthquakes identified as per FAO assessment results
		Small-scale farmers categorized as severely or moderately impacted by the earthquake
		Farmers reported to have had their production damaged and had assets that needed recovery, as per the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry assessment
		Residents of the affected areas who had not migrated to other provinces and were actively seeking livelihood support through appeals to government
		Had valid ID card in the most affected earthquake provinces (for Syrians under Temporary Protection and International Protection Applicants and Status Holders; registered with the Provincial Directorates of Migration Management)
		Registered to the farmer registration system (ÇKS) or veterinary registration system
	Prioritization	Female farmers
		Farmers with a disability (a medical certificate showing disability to align with the national system)
		Had lost family members in the earthquakes
		Farmers with higher damage in their production and assets (as per official reports)

Rural areas with the highest damage proportion of households or individuals were prioritized, based on a geospatial analysis conducted by FAO<sup>15</sup>. The areas selected included: Adiyaman (Golbasi, Merkez, Tut); Hatay (Antakya, Defne, Kirikhan, Samandag, Arsuz, İskenderun, Hassa, Altınozu); Kahramanmaraş (Dulkadiroglu, Onikisubat, Pazarcık, Nurhak); Malatya (Doğanşehir, Battalgazi, Yeşilyurt, Yazıhan,

<sup>15</sup> FAO. 2023. Rapid geospatial assessment after the earthquake in Türkiye in 2023: Impacts on infrastructure and farming community during the period February-March 2023. Rome. [Cited 5 July 2024]. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f22ec8f1-ed83-4cf3-9ba4-1a7203f71642/content>

Akcağag; and Gaziantep (Nurdağı, Islahiye, Sehitkamil). A total of 3 000 people (of whom 50 percent women and 95 percent Turkish citizens) were targeted to receive cash transfers and 200 farming households (880 people, of whom 20 percent women and 95 percent Turkish citizens) to receive agricultural input packages.

FAO guided its implementing partners to liaise with all potential local actors to identify interested Turkish candidates and Syrians under Temporary Protection. Local actors involved included (i) provincial directorates in charge of agriculture; (ii) district governorates, (including special provincial administrations); (iii) municipalities; (iv) community leaders and communities; (v) the Turkish Red Crescent; (vi) provincial directorates in charge of migration management and the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) offices; (vii) NGOs; and (viii) local cooperatives agricultural unions and chambers.

Beneficiary registration was carried out following the selection process. As per Türkiye's personal data protection law, all personal data and information on beneficiaries and other supporting documentation were stored securely and confidentially in FAO's system and databases.



*Officials hold a meeting with the Kahramanmaraş Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry to coordinate relief efforts and support for earthquake-affected communities.*

## Protection and feedback mechanisms

The FAO PSEA focal point conducted training for 20 implementing partner staff (of whom eight women) on PSEA and sexual harassment policies to ensure appropriate conduct towards beneficiaries to avoid sexual exploitation and abuse. Representatives from Kirkyol Cooperative; Onder Farmers Association; Tohum Association; the Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry of Gaziantep, Hatay, Elazığ, Kahramanmaraş and Adiyaman; Akcağag and Ayvacık District Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry; Adana-Seyhan Municipality; Adana Municipality; Diyarbakir Industry and Trade Chamber; and the South-Eastern Anatolia Project Administration participated in the PSEA training. The project promoted awareness-raising messages and visibility materials related to PSEA and provided access to complaint and grievance mechanisms. All beneficiaries, including the most vulnerable groups such as women, could easily access PSEA reporting mechanisms. Every beneficiary

had the right to raise their concerns and complaints without fear of retaliation or victimization. The FAO Country Office in Türkiye guaranteed complaints were kept confidential, ensuring the safety of potential complainants and the possibility of retaliation.

Beneficiaries were provided with several channels to raise grievances and provide feedback. Firstly, a dedicated phone number was activated, whereby beneficiaries could call to express their complaint, in either Turkish or Arabic. The number was active from 09:00 to 16:00 from Monday to Thursday, and from 09:00 to 15:00 on Fridays. Complainants could also send text or voice messages through WhatsApp, and an email address was also activated. Moreover, a complaint box was established on the premises of each implementing partner, where written complaints could be submitted. Finally, FAO staff could directly collect beneficiary complaints during events, meetings or missions. This channel also included any written or verbal complaints raised by beneficiaries, which could be delivered to the FAO Country Office in Türkiye. During the project timeline, no feedback or grievances regarding sensitive issues such as PSEA were raised by project beneficiaries.

To ensure the dissemination of information to potential beneficiaries, FAO's implementing partners undertook communication and information campaigns which included visiting candidates in the targeted communities, facilitating community-based discussions with community leaders, setting up help desks in strategic locations and providing informative documents to be distributed at key community points. Outreach activities were conducted in the local language to facilitate the effective communication of key messages, including the aim and objective of the project, the targeting model, proposed eligibility criteria, assistance modality, assistance levels (entitlement), timeframe of assistance and the numbers of individuals or households assisted.

## Gender equality

The aftermath of the earthquake exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities, making women, particularly women-headed households, even more vulnerable. FAO conducted needs assessments to identify the specific needs of women in the target areas. Following this, project formulation included gender-specific targets and indicators, ensuring women's needs were considered and integrated. Unconditional cash transfers and the provision of agricultural inputs empowered women engaged in agriculture to resume production and rebuild their livelihoods.

The restriction on women's mobility was also considered, and safe distribution points were selected for women's access to agricultural inputs. In addition, to ensure women's empowerment and effective outcomes of the project, gender-sensitive monitoring was conducted periodically in the project areas. Regular sex-disaggregated data was collected and reported to ensure progress was on track.

## Key achievements, coordination and deviations

The project contributed to mitigating the impact of the earthquake on 1 282 households (of whom 474 were headed by women, representing 6 091 people, by restoring food security and safeguarding livelihoods, thereby contributing to the resilience of rural households.



**Output 1. Cash transfers to cover immediate needs are delivered to 3 000 direct beneficiaries affected by the earthquake**

Within the scope of the project, the FAO Country Office in Türkiye successfully distributed USD 235 500 through one-time unconditional cash transfers to 722 households (USD 75/household member, averaging at USD 326/household). This support benefited 3 140 people overall (1 137 of whom were women) in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş provinces, exceeding the 3 000 people target.

**Table 32. Households receiving unconditional cash transfers**

Province	District	Number of households reached	Number of people reached	Average household size	Amount of cash disbursed (USD)
Hatay	Hassa	182	905	4.97	67 875
	Kirikhan	156	695	4.46	52 125
Kahramanmaraş	Dulkadiroglu	67	296	4.42	22 200
	Elbistan	52	224	4.31	16 800
	Nurhak	24	105	4.38	7 875
	Onikisubat	114	447	3.92	33 525
	Pazarcik	68	237	3.49	17 775
	Turkoglu	59	231	3.92	17 325
<b>Total</b>		<b>722</b>	<b>3 140</b>	<b>4.35</b>	<b>235 500</b>

**Output 2. 200 direct beneficiary farming households (880 people) received agricultural inputs (i.e. animal feed, seeds and seedlings, fertilizer, fuel, tools and equipment)**

Agricultural inputs, including 45 tonnes (900 sacks) of fertilizer, 90 tonnes (1 800 sacks) of feed, and 100 portable motorized knapsack sprayers, were successfully distributed in the Antakya and Samandag districts of Hatay province and the Pazarcık, Onikisubat and Dulkadiroglu districts of Kahramanmaraş province. This enabled each beneficiary farmer to feed their cattle for one month, cultivate one ha of land and protect their products against pests and diseases. In total, 560 households were reached, 2 951 people (1 066 of whom were women), well exceeding the original target of 200 households.

Table 33. Agricultural input support provided

Province	District	Distributed inputs	Total number of households	Total number of people	Quantity	Total number of items distributed	Total weight of distributed items (tonnes)
Hatay	Antakya	Livestock feed	90	510	5x50 kg	450	22.5
		Portable motorized knapsack sprayer	50	292	1	50	N/A
		NPK complex 15-15-15 fertilizer			4x50 kg	200	10
	Samandag	Portable motorized knapsack sprayer	50	280	1	50	N/A
		NPK complex 15-15-15 fertilizer			4x50 kg	200	10
		Livestock feed	90	588	5x50 kg	450	22.5
Kahramanmaraş	Pazarcık	Urea	63	272	5x50 kg	315	15.75
		Livestock feed	60	289	5x50 kg	300	15
	Onikisubat	Urea	37	168	5x50 kg	185	9.25
		Livestock feed	48	223	5x50 kg	240	12
	Dulkadiroglu	Livestock feed	72	329	5x50 kg	360	18
<b>Total</b>			<b>560</b>	<b>2 951</b>	-	<b>2 800</b>	<b>135</b>

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

Most beneficiaries expressed high levels of satisfaction with the assistance provided, indicating the positive impact of the project. Beneficiaries reported minimal difficulties in accessing the assistance, with high levels of satisfaction regarding the amount of support provided and the process for accessing it. This suggests smooth implementation and efficient distribution processes, contributing to the overall success of the project.

The project conducted post-distribution monitoring activities that indicated the project was perceived as fair, transparent and without discrimination, fostering trust and confidence among beneficiaries. The post-distribution monitoring results indicated that most beneficiaries used the cash assistance for housing or rent (48.6 percent), food (70 percent), and basic household needs (41.4 percent). Notably, 30 percent of respondents also used the money to cover agricultural expenses, indicating a significant portion of households prioritizing the restoration of agricultural activities.



The well-organized distribution process and the convenient timing and location further enhanced the project's effectiveness. A notable 67.2 percent of respondents reported a strongly positive impact, while an additional 32.8 percent expressed a positive impact on their livelihoods, enabling farmers to continue their agricultural activities. This also resulted in the continuation of employment opportunities in the agrifood sector.



*FAO officials hold a meeting with the Kahramanmaraş Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry to coordinate relief efforts and support for earthquake-affected communities.*

## Sustainability

The project aimed to improve rural households' capacity to maintain agrifood production through increased access to agricultural inputs for the planting season and summer production. As such, capacity building occurred ensuring the continuation of agricultural activities after the earthquake and until the end of the season. Additionally, to limit possible adverse impacts on the environment, the agricultural inputs selected had the least environmental footprint and could be used in environmentally friendly agricultural activities.

The Government of Türkiye also launched several support programmes targeting farmers in the earthquake impacted area. The project was implemented in cooperation with the FAO Country Office in Türkiye's existing national and local stakeholders and implementing partners. Through the project, partnerships with these institutes were renewed and strengthened. This created solidarity between project stakeholders in the post-disaster environment.

Further efforts are necessary to address remaining challenges and to ensure the sustainable rehabilitation and recovery of affected communities. By incorporating recommendations from key stakeholders, including affected communities, future initiatives can better meet the evolving needs of these communities and contribute to long-term resilience and prosperity.

## Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

The project encountered several challenges, requiring adaptive strategies to achieve its objectives.

- Market price studies were conducted during inception, with continuous monitoring of the agricultural input market for price fluctuations. There were slight increases on certain items as expected, however the project indexed the value of inputs in US Dollar which changed proportionately to the general level of prices.
- The timing of the assistance delivery posed a challenge, as delays in inputs such as seeds and fertilizers could impact the planting seasons. FAO and its implementing partners employed a comprehensive scheduling system that considered regional planting seasons and climatic conditions. Strategic partnerships were established with suppliers to ensure timely procurement and transportation of agricultural inputs.
- Adequate storage facilities for agricultural inputs were lacking due to the impact of the earthquake in some areas. This posed a risk to the quality and safety of the distributed items. Implementing partners collaborated with local communities and authorities to identify and establish temporary storage facilities in areas lacking proper storage infrastructure.
- Concerns arose over the equitable distribution of assistance, as ensuring the accurate identification and targeting of beneficiaries proved to be a challenge. FAO, through its implementing partners, established strong community engagement through awareness programmes involving local leaders and community representatives during the beneficiary identification process. A transparent and participatory system was implemented, leveraging community-based organizations to verify and confirm eligible households.
- Ensuring effective coordination among various stakeholders for a rapid response posed challenges, potentially delaying the delivery of assistance. FAO established a dedicated coordination team responsible for liaising with all stakeholders involved in the project. Regular coordination meetings were conducted, and a unified timeline shared to ensure alignment with the project's goals and deadlines.



*Following the earthquake, Cennet Polat (left), head of a women's cooperative, discusses the situation with FAO officials in the affected area.*

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes in southern Türkiye in February 2023, Cennet Polat, head of the Mutlu Besin Cooperative in Kahramanmaraş, transformed her women-led agrifood cooperative into a crucial support hub. The cooperative initially focused on producing dried foods and the local favourite Tarhana but shifted direction dramatically. With the support of the Sida-funded project, the cooperative extended its role to not only provide food, but also emergency supplies and psychological support to the community.

“Thanks to the nationwide network we built with FAO's support, we managed to bring assistance trucks to our village of 15 000 people just three days after the disaster,” Cennet recounted. The cooperative's members quickly mobilized to assess and meet the urgent needs of affected families, distributing food, clothing and essential hygiene kits.

Beyond the need for physical assistance, Cennet recognized the severe mental health toll on her community, particularly among women. She explained, “After the earthquake, many women found themselves with limited access to psychosocial services.” The cooperative became a safe space for sharing, healing and regaining strength through community activities.

FAO, along with international support, is aiding the Mutlu Besin Cooperative and others to continue their vital work. Despite the challenges, their resilience assures FAO that recovery is not just possible, but imminent. The ongoing efforts aim to sustain production and rebuild rural livelihoods, marking a beacon of hope and renewal for the community.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Food security is restored and contributed to the resilience of rural households.				
<b>Outcome:</b> Rural household's capacity to sustain agrifood production is improved through rapidly increased access to agricultural inputs for the current planting season and summer production.	Number of people benefitting from support to continue their agrifood production in selected communities	0	3 200	6 091 people (1 282 households)
<b>Output 1.</b> Cash transfers to cover immediate needs are delivered to 3 000 direct beneficiaries affected by the earthquake	Number of individuals who received unconditional cash transfer in selected communities	0	3 000	3 140 people (722 households)
<b>Output 2.</b> 200 direct beneficiary farming households (880 people) received agricultural inputs (i.e. animal feed, seeds and seedlings, fertilizer, fuel, tools and equipment)	Number of farming households that received input packages in selected communities	0	200 households (880 people)	560 households (2 951 people)

## The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela



*A shepherd herds goats to the jagüeyes in Wayuu Miralejos Indigenous Community, Mara Municipality, Venezuela.*

### Programmatic overview

FAO project code	Funds provided (SEK)	Funds provided (USD equivalent)	SFERA funding window
OSRO/VEN/027/SWE	8 602 540	887 775	AA

The project was designed in accordance with Objective 2 of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela HRP 2024–2025, “Reduce vulnerability and strengthen the recovery capacities and resilience of people prioritized by age group, gender and diversity”, as well as its three subobjectives. Similarly, the project falls under the response strategy of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, specifically Strategic Objective 3, “Contribute to the restoration, maintenance, rehabilitation and protection of livelihoods, and improve the resilience of households and communities in humanitarian crisis or affected by natural disasters through activities to protect or create productive assets and basic infrastructure without damaging their customs and habitat and with an ethnic and gender focus”. The project is aligned with FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022–2031, particularly Better Life 3, Priority Area “Agriculture and food emergencies” as well as the FAO CPF which includes as a priority area of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, “by 2026, the country will have adapted, reduced vulnerability and mitigated the effects of climate change, particularly of the most vulnerable population”.

The intervention established synergies with the FAO project UNJP/VEN/026/EC, entitled “Mitigation of protection risks of vulnerable indigenous women and girls, through an integrated approach promoting the exercise of their rights, including access to identity, protection services, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, economic empowerment, and protection of their environment”. The project is being carried out in communities of the Guajira municipality in Zulia state and is implementing activities related to the development of early warning systems in agricultural

production, as well as anticipatory action plans that protect the livelihoods of 400 households led by indigenous women. Anticipatory actions are included as part of the community disaster preparedness protocols.

## OSRO/VEN/027/SWE | Anticipating the impacts of agricultural drought in Venezuela Guajira

### Affected populations targeting and selection

The Guajira subregion, which includes the municipalities of Mara and Guajira, was targeted due to the El Niño-induced drought's expected level of impact. The project aimed to repair and operationalize small infrastructure for collecting, storing and managing water for agriculture, and animal and human consumption, thereby mitigating the negative impacts of drought on food security and livelihoods. All actions were carried out between August 2023 and March 2024.

Considering the similar vulnerability levels of all communities in the area, a set of criteria was defined in consultation with local authorities, local indigenous NGOs (including *Comité de Derechos Humanos de la Guajira*, Wayuu Taya Foundation, Wayuuwaka Foundation, and Red Sur), the Ministry for Indigenous Peoples, and the Ministry of Water Resource Management to focus the intervention. The criteria were as follows:

- communities relying on subsistence agriculture and/or livestock;
- communities with no water pipeline service; and
- communities with existing wells and jagüeyes (water storage ponds) for communal use feasible to be repaired.

Technical evaluations were carried out in prefocused communities to analyse how communities met the criteria. Indigenous communities within the potentially affected area were prioritized. This resulted in the selection of 43 communities consisting of 4 578 households in the two municipalities. The Free, Prior and Informed Consultation assemblies were held in each of the 43 communities to discuss the project, obtaining their consent for project implementation. The project team ensured that women, people with disabilities and the most vulnerable in the communities attended the consultations. During assemblies, community leaders were asked to provide the project team with a community census and map indicating the households that constituted the 25 percent most vulnerable. Following this process, 1 050 households out of the total 4 578 were identified as the most vulnerable households in the target communities and were selected as beneficiaries for the household level actions of the project.

### Protection and feedback mechanisms

FAO subscribes to the PSEA complaints protocol. The nominated PSEA focal point ensured alignment between the community-based reporting system, the in-country protocol and the FAO corporate sexual exploitation and abuse allegations handling process. In the case of sexual exploitation and abuse allegations concerning FAO activities, safe referrals to assistance services in accordance with the victim-centred approach were prioritized.

To help strengthen PSEA, the following was carried out:



- FAO assessed and built the capacities of its implementing partner, *Asociación Civil Fomento del Desarrollo Popular* (FUDEP) on sexual exploitation and abuse.
- FAO organized a PSEA training for six agency staff and six FUDEP staff (12 in total).
- FUDEP provided PSEA training for nine field project assistants (of whom five women).
- Community awareness activities were conducted on PSEA, through which 43 communities were sensitized and received informative material in their local language.

Community sensitization on AAP also took place in the target communities. FAO introduced the AAP concept, as well as the feedback and complaint mechanism available through the UN interagency contact line in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Informative material (pamphlets) on AAP and the complaint mechanisms were translated into local languages, then printed and distributed in the communities. Reporting channels made available to communities included email, face-to-face application forms and a phone number enabled to receive calls, text and WhatsApp messages. In addition, FAO works in close collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Population Fund and UN Women in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to identify and refer protection cases to the relevant referral systems in place to strengthen the protection of the population, particularly women. Throughout the duration of the project cycle, no reports were submitted in relation to the project.



*Wayuu mother with her grandchildren in the courtyard of her home.  
Wayuu Miralejos Indigenous Community, Mara Municipality.*

## Gender equality

The ongoing socioeconomic situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela continues to affect women differently than men, perpetuating conventional gender stereotypes. For example, in La Guajira, men tend to assume the role of provider, while women assume most of the unpaid care tasks in the domestic space, either exclusively or in combination with paid work.



For this reason, FAO conducted consultations to understand their differentiated needs, responding with tailored interventions to put women at the centre in both programme design and implementation. Households headed by women were prioritized for distribution and trainings on anticipatory action, protecting their livelihoods and contributing to their economic and social empowerment. Overall, 78 percent of the 1 050 households directly targeted were headed by women.

In parallel, the project addressed a specific issue identified: women in La Guajira are mainly responsible for the collection and management of water. It is estimated that women living in households with limited access to drinking water, like those in La Guajira, spend between 5–12 hours more per week on domestic and care work than women living in households with access to water. The distribution of household water harvesting kits and the rehabilitation of community wells and jagüeyes alleviated the need for women and adolescent girls to walk long distances with heavy loads of collected water, often exposed to protection risks. Additionally, while women participate in community activities, they have limited decision-making power. With the formalization of technical water boards promoted by the project, the project ensured that 41 percent of elected members were women, strengthening women's leadership and decision-making within their communities.

### Key achievements, coordination and deviations

**Outcome: Local governments and communities anticipated and mitigated the impacts of drought on livelihoods, food security and nutrition by safeguarding the growing season's production**

The project contributed to mitigating the impacts of drought on 4 578 households (10 percent more than the 4 167 planned), reducing the adoption of negative coping mechanisms to lessen the impact of drought. The project conducted activities at both community and household levels.

Table 34. Breakdown of support provided by project

Component	Number of households reached	Number of people reached	Number of animals reached	Negative coping mechanism to be reduced
Jagüeyes rehabilitation	4 578	19 989	50 380	Animal losses or selling assets at a low price
Well rehabilitation	2 562	8 884	11 632	Drinking unclean water from jagüeyes
Water management kits distribution	710	4 640	-	Drinking unclean water from jagüeyes
Agricultural inputs distribution	1 050	6 862	-	Poor quality diet
Veterinary aid kits distribution	-	-	13 200	Avoid animal losses or selling assets at a low price
Animal feed distribution	540	-	4 640	Animal losses or selling assets at a low price
Anticipatory action workshops	1 050	6 862	-	-
Radio broadcasting awareness campaign	4 578	19 989	-	-

Output 1. Vulnerable households relying on subsistence agriculture and/or livestock have improved their water management capacity, strengthening their production capacities in a drought context



Rehabilitation of jagüeyes for community use in the Guajira region.

The project repaired and operationalized infrastructure for collecting, storing and managing water for agricultural use and human consumption. A total of 30 jagüeyes were rehabilitated for community use. Jagüeyes are mostly used to provide livestock with water and to irrigate crops. However, when drought is severe, vulnerable families who cannot afford water trucks resort to collecting water from them for home use. In addition, workshops carried out in communities emphasized the correct use of jagüeyes to avoid water-borne diseases.

Table 35. Households and animals reached through rehabilitation of jagüeyes per municipality

Municipality	Number of rehabilitated jagüeyes	Number of households reached	Number of people reached	Number of animals reached
Guajira	15	2 343	13 283	26 272
Mara	15	2 235	6 706	24 108
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4 578</b>	<b>19 989</b>	<b>50 380</b>

The project operationalized 118 wells, surpassing the original target of 80. This was made possible due to agreements reached with the municipalities whereby machinery and a work force were provided at a low cost. Beneficiary communities worked and in exchange, received material to rehabilitate the wells. Various types of wells were rehabilitated including: (i) electric pump wells corresponding to the rural aqueduct system, and (ii) non-electric wells that were part of a windmill system. Two wells were also rehabilitated with solar-powered pumps. In addition, the project provided construction materials, hoses and small pumps in areas with access to electricity, enabling the rehabilitation of a significant number of multi-family wells. With these wells in place, women could avoid walking long distances to fetch water. Families could also save on water, instead using the money to purchase food. At the same time, the quality of water from the wells was higher to that consumed from jagüeyes or brackish wells, preventing the population from practicing this negative coping mechanism.

The bulk of the well rehabilitations took place from November 2023 to February 2024 in the municipality of Mara, and from January to February 2024 in the municipality of Guajira. During the initial anticipatory window, only one well was rehabilitated because of operational delays and difficulty in securing a contractor to undertake the works due to legal constraints.

Table 36. Wells rehabilitated and households reached by municipality

Municipality	Type of well (according to energy)	Planned number of rehabilitated wells	Number of rehabilitated wells	Number of households reached	Number of people reached	Number of animals reached
Guajira	Electric	55	91	1 455	4 970	6 909
	Solar	0	2	114	629	273
	Wind	10	6	284	1 278	2 256
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1 853</b>	<b>6 877</b>	<b>9 438</b>
Mara	Electric	15	19	709	1 997	2 194
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>1 997</b>	<b>2 194</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2 562</b>	<b>8 884</b>	<b>11 632</b>

At the household level, the project carried out anticipatory actions to target the most vulnerable 25 percent of households in communities where the rehabilitation of wells and jagüeyes took place. The actions included the provision of material needed for water harvesting, water storage, water

recycling and drip irrigation, as well as water management training for 1 050 households (one member/household), of whom 850 (81 percent) were women.

To improve water storage, 380 water tanks of 1 500 L were allocated to 15 schools (Campo Alegre, Uverito, Simoncito Matapalo, Puertecitos, Simoncito, Cardoncito, Cañito Indígena I, Los Mochos, Simoncito Yaguasiru, Yosiupa, Los Aceitunitos in Guajira municipality and Camuro, San Andres, Santa Elena, and Miralejos in Mara municipality). Additionally, 35 water tanks were allocated to multi-family wells in 14 small communities to enhance their water storage capacities (Puertecitos [two], Cardoncitos [six], Mamoncitos [two], Karraipa [one], Matapalo [five], Ariguapa [three], Campo Alegre [one], Robles [four], Cañito Indígena [two], Polumou [one], Yaguasiru [two] in Guajira municipality, and San Andres [one], Alfamara [one] and Don Leon [three] in Mara municipality). The remaining were given to 331 of the most vulnerable households that did not have water storage capacity in their homes.

Moreover, innovative practices were introduced such as greywater recycling and drip irrigation, not commonly used by indigenous communities in La Guajira region. A total of 100 households adopted these practices, 50 in Mara municipality (34 women-headed) and 50 in Guajira municipality (39 women-headed). The implementation of greywater recycling and micro-irrigation was supported with capacity building and technical assistance from FAO and FUDEP technicians in the field.



FAO and FUDEP technicians introduce greywater recycling and drip irrigation.

Table 37. Equipment included in water management kits distributed to communities

Type of input	Quantity of input	Distributed to public schools	Distributed for multi-family wells	Distributed to women-headed households	Distributed to male-headed households
Water tanks (1 500 L)	380	12	29	272	49
Water harvesting kits (zinc sheets, rainwater gutters)	350	-	-	249	17
Greywater recycling kits	100	-	-	73	27
Micro-irrigation systems for 50 m <sup>2</sup> (including 200 L tank)	100	-	-	73	27

Project activities were carried out in close collaboration with Guajira and Mara municipalities, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, and with several community leaders, smallholder farmers, indigenous people, and local indigenous NGOs in both municipalities. FAO signed a Letter of Agreement with

FUDEP, working closely to identify beneficiary communities with wells and jagüeyes that could feasibly be repaired, to collect base and endline data, develop a training programme for vulnerable households, support the creation and strengthening of water communal round tables and distribute inputs at the household level.

Local engineers from Mara and Guajira municipalities were contracted to assess the state of wells and jagüeyes and the feasibility of their rehabilitation, including the design of the engineering solution. In the Mara municipality, staff from the mayor’s office used their own machinery and personnel for the rehabilitation of the wells and jagüeyes in the territory, in exchange for FAO carrying out repairs of machinery and providing the necessary fuel for the works. This was carried out under FAO technical support and supervision. In addition, FAO agreed on the modality of work for the material (construction material, concrete rings, small electric pumps) with 18 communities in Guajira municipality located in areas served by shallow wells.

Table 38. Community members who worked in exchange for material to rehabilitate wells in Guajira municipality

Number	Community	Number of community members
1	Matapalo	27
2	Los Cardoncitos	18
3	Canito Indigena	17
4	Campo Alegre	15
5	Los Puertecitos	13
6	Los Mamoncitos	12
7	Las Parchitas 1	11
8	Robles	11
9	Ariguapa	9
10	Uveritos	6
11	La Ceiba	6
12	Las Parcelas	6
13	Karrapia	4
14	Las Lomas	4
15	Las Parchitas 2	4
16	Los Hermanitos	4
17	Los Mochos	3
18	Renacer del Canito	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>172</b>

## Output 2. Vulnerable households relying on subsistence agriculture and/or livestock are provided with inputs and technical assistance to protect and diversify their livelihoods

The project distributed inputs, including tools, seeds for planting, veterinary support and animal feed. To support the diversification of livelihoods, FAO also distributed 200 casting nets, raising household resilience by providing opportunities to undertake livelihood activities less impacted by drought. Women were recipients of up to 82 percent of these distributions.



Table 39. Agricultural livelihood inputs distributed, and number of households reached

Type of input	Planned quantity	Total quantity distributed	Women-headed households reached	Male-headed households reached	Percentage of women-headed households reached
Agricultural kit (hoe, machete, file, shovel, digging bar, pickaxe)	350	335	286	49	85%
Wheelbarrow	350	309	231	78	75%
Round fishing nets	200	200	164	36	82%



*Wayuu women planting Guajirero corn in the Venezuelan Guajira.*

Communities were consulted on the types of seed to be delivered, which resulted in “early corn” and “Guajiro bean” seed being included in the kits for all 1 050 of the most vulnerable households. Commercial varieties, also cultivated in the subregion, were given to 454 out of the 1 050 most vulnerable households. In addition, with FAO technical assistance, 17 beneficiaries from the Yosuiipa and Yaguasiru communities in Guajira municipality (of whom 76 percent women) who received tools and seed participated in the construction of “half-moons” to improve water infiltration, which enabled the establishment of local pastures. According to beneficiaries and government staff, this was the first time this technique had been introduced in the Venezuelan Guajira subregion.

In summary, the project reached 1 050 vulnerable households, 525 in Mara municipality (418 women-headed) and 525 in Guajira municipality (440 women-headed).

Table 40. Summary of seed kits provided and households reached

Type of input	Quantity of input (g/household)	Total quantity distributed (kg)	Number of households
Cilantro	1	0.454	454
Early corn (local variety)	95.2	100	1 050
Eggplant	1	0.454	454
Guajiro bean (local variety)	47.6	50	1 050
Paprika	1	0.454	454
Sorghum	1	0.454	454
Sweet chili	1	0.454	454

Due to the change in animal feed type (from nutrient blocks to silage), it was possible to reach more households than initially planned, increasing from 350 to 556 households, with each household receiving around 47.62 kg.

Table 41. Distribution of silage bags per municipality

Municipality	Total number of households reached	Number of women-headed households reached	Percentage of women-headed households reached	Total number of bags distributed
Guajira	303	255	84	1 679
Mara	253	195	77	1 576
<b>Total</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>3 255</b>

Veterinary care tool kits (including vitamins and dewormers) were also distributed in each community, incentivizing the formation of local veterinary brigades among breeders. The project's goal was to reach 20 communities, but due to savings during the procurement process, a total of 33 kits were distributed in 33 communities, reaching 13 200 animals owned by 915 households. The project veterinarians provided capacity development and technical assistance on deworming and injection techniques for farm animals.



Table 42. Composition of veterinary care kits for ruminants

Type of input	Quantity of input (per community)	Total quantity distributed
Reusable syringe for veterinary use of 10 ml or cm <sup>3</sup>	1	33
Reusable syringe for veterinary use of 20 ml or cm <sup>3</sup>	1	33
Disposable hypodermic needles 18G x 1"	15	495
Disposable hypodermic needles 18G x 1/2"	15	495
Oral cannulas	2	66
Oxytetracycline (bottles of 100 ml or cm <sup>3</sup> )	5	165
Septibron (bottles of 100 ml or cm <sup>3</sup> )	2	66
Albendazole (bottle of 1 L)	1	33
Ivermectin 1% (bottle of 100 ml or cm <sup>3</sup> )	1	33
B Complex Vitamins (bottles of 100 ml or cm <sup>3</sup> )	6	198
Vitamins A, D3, E (bottles of 100 ml or cm <sup>3</sup> )	2	66

Output 3. Awareness is raised among beneficiaries and other participants on drought-related disaster risk management and anticipatory action approaches and their organization to take collective and individual actions that protect their livelihoods and their active engagement in the project is promoted

The project provided a space for institutional coordination between municipalities, ministries and communities in relation to community-based water management. This coordination enabled the establishment of 20 community technical water boards, a grassroots organization whereby people actively participate in discussions related to all aspects of water service and use, while monitoring and co-managing neighbourhood-level water infrastructure. A total of 100 people participated in the newly constituted boards, 41 of whom women.

Prior to distribution activities, 20 workshops were held to train 1 050 participants, of whom 850 women, on the specific anticipatory action for drought management. These workshops informed participants about El Niño, raised awareness about the responsible use of water, and trained people on the concepts of anticipatory actions, the correct use and necessary maintenance of the rehabilitated water points, and distributions. Also, promotional messages to disseminate drought-related warnings and promote better water use were prepared in indigenous languages and Spanish to broadcast on local radio stations, reaching all project beneficiaries.

## Impact and sustainability

### Impact

FAO and FUDEP are in the process of carrying out post-distribution monitoring to assess the overall impact of the project<sup>16</sup>.

- In the Venezuelan Guajira (comprising Guajira and Mara municipalities), the rehabilitation of 118 community and multi-family water wells has meant that 8 884 people no longer depend on water from tanker trucks, saving households up to USD 32/month. For the most vulnerable families, the consumption of unsafe water from the jagüeyes can be avoided.
- Through the rehabilitation of these 118 wells, a total flow of 7 271 m<sup>3</sup>/day is accessible to both municipalities, the equivalent to about 2.65 million m<sup>3</sup>/year. This is equivalent to 660 ha/year of irrigated land.
- At the same time, the rehabilitation of 30 jagüeyes for community use has recovered a storage capacity of around 54 000 m<sup>3</sup> of water. This has enabled approximately 1 050 of the most vulnerable families in the Guajira and Mara municipalities to sustain and maintain herds of up to 15 146 livestock (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs), without having to resort to negative coping mechanisms. Total beneficiaries of the rehabilitated jagüeyes include 4 578 families and 50 380 animals.
- Beneficiary satisfaction is reportedly very high, as the wells in the target communities had not been functioning for years and the jagüeyes had not been maintained. The repaired wells include ten windmills in remote areas without access to electricity.
- In addition, distributions at the household level substantially improved living conditions with respect to water management and its potential for agricultural activities. Of the 4 578 households reached by the project, 2 562 (56 percent) will now have year-round access to water.
- It has been reported that most farmers did not plant during the planting season due to low rainfall. However, those that did plant are mostly located in communities where jagüeyes and particularly wells were repaired.
- Approximately 350 families can now harvest and store rainwater. The project has added 545 000 L of storage for the territory's population with the delivery of 350 tanks of 1 500 L and 100 tanks of 200 L. Through the implementation of drip-irrigation systems, 100 families can now produce a total of 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> generating 50 kg of vegetables (chili, paprika, eggplant, cilantro, beans, corn) per family every three months. The project also provided seed and agricultural tools to facilitate crop production.

### Sustainability

FAO mobilized local actors, authorities, locally based NGOs, local contractors, indigenous producers and its institutions to strengthen local capacities and ensure project implementation. The target communities were involved in every stage of the project, from participating as workers (176 men in direct well rehabilitation works, in addition to 13 women and 7 men working as field assistants in the project), guiding the selection and design of water points to be rehabilitated, to supervising and monitoring the works.

The rehabilitation of the jagüeyes and wells was made possible through agreements with the Aqueduct and Environment Institutes of the Mayors' offices, hiring local contractors and providing

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<sup>16</sup> Post-distribution monitoring results will be made available soon.

construction materials, including concrete rings for the construction of wells, hoses, small pumps and corresponding electric kits, and cables for electricity in areas with access to electricity, to the communities in exchange for their work. The establishment of technical water boards, which were democratically elected in 20 communities, guarantees the correct use and maintenance of the rehabilitated water points. Likewise, the training of 1 050 people in specific anticipatory actions in arid climates raised awareness and provided tools to ensure the sustainability of the actions implemented by the project.

Additionally, the project supported the municipalities in repairing heavy machinery (in exchange for rehabilitating the wells and jagüeyes) which was later used by local authorities to carry out other community rehabilitation of water infrastructure. The staff of the mayors' offices teamed up with the project staff (both FAO and local partner staff), exchanging knowledge and enhancing the capacity of implementing partners.

### Risk management, lessons learned and project timeliness

The project had a very short window of opportunity which varied for each of the activities and had to be constantly reviewed to manage any delays that occurred. As such, the project encountered several challenges, impacting its timelines and requiring adaptive strategies to achieve its objectives. The project was granted a two-month no-cost extension to complete activities.

- Although the forecasted El Niño-induced drought occurred, it was not as severe as originally anticipated. This was due to the production of rain occurring as a result of the strongest tropical cyclone season in the Caribbean Sea to date. The rains affected the initially defined window of opportunity, giving the project an extended period to implement some activities, including the distribution of animal feed. Meanwhile, the rehabilitation of some of the jagüeyes was delayed since they could not be expanded or repaired once full of water.
- Challenges arose over the identification of wells and jagüeyes that had been privatized but were in fact owned and used by the community. This caused delays in the selection of beneficiary communities.
- The language barrier can be a challenge in projects with Indigenous Peoples. FAO and its local partners hired field staff who were native speakers of Wayuunaiki in addition to Spanish to facilitate communication.
- Roadblocks were a recurring hindrance during project implementation, resulting in tasks and activities being rescheduled to later dates. In future, this must be accounted for in project planning to avoid delays.
- Fuel shortages were also a significant threat to the rehabilitation of the jagüeyes, as the machinery depended on fuel for transportation and on-site operations. The municipalities helped a great deal in obtaining the fuel needed for the operations.
- Administrative and logistical factors constituted the most serious obstacle to the timely execution of the project. This included delays in the operational clearance of the project impacting the start date of the project and subsequently delaying the scheduled field activities (in particular, the selection of communities). Moreover, sourcing partners and contractors delayed the rehabilitation works further. To solve the issues in finding partners, suppliers, and contractors (due to legal limitations in signing agreements and receiving payments from the project), the team changed the initial implementation modality to direct implementation.



*Marisela transfers water from a well, rehabilitated and now running on solar power through the project, into a container. The wheelbarrow, also provided by the project, will help her transport it home, Los Mochos.*

Marisela spent a year leaving her house before sunrise to fetch water by foot with her small children. This trip involved crossing a dangerous road with high-speed traffic. In the afternoon, she would go back again to fetch water, as she could not afford to buy water from the trucks.

The water she collected was used to irrigate crops, as well as for family consumption (drinking water, cooking and washing clothes). Water was also needed for her animals, who would consume more than her family, according to Marisela. For the Wayuu people, animals are an important asset as families can sell their animals in times of urgent financial need, providing a source of income.

Now, the lives of Marisela and her family of ten have changed. As a result of the project, the well in their community was repaired and a solar-powered pump installed near their house. Marisela and her family have enough water for themselves and to maintain their animals. In addition, the veterinary kits distributed among the community will help sustain the health of their animals.

Marisela reported that with her improved water access, her family will be able to produce onions, pumpkins, guajiro beans, early maize and cilantro in their homestead. She plans to use the seeds and tools provided to make the seedbed and to construct a fence to keep the animals at bay.

Her two older sons (12 and 13) help her with the family farm. In addition, Marisela's husband, Roberto, and their older son are fishers. They received a casting net from the project that will enhance their ability to provide more food for the family. The diversification of livelihoods is a resilience strategy that most Wayuu families practice.

## Results assessment framework

Results chain	Indicator	Baseline	End of project target	Total achieved
<b>Impact:</b> Food security and resilience to climate shocks improved by implementing anticipatory action in the Guajira region of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 13)				
<b>Outcome:</b> Local governments and communities anticipated and mitigated the impacts of drought on livelihoods, food security and nutrition by safeguarding the growing season's production.	Number of families that reduce negative coping mechanisms to lessen the impact of drought	0	4 167 additional families	4 578
	<b>Output 1.</b> Vulnerable households relying on subsistence agriculture and/or livestock have improved their water management capacity, strengthening their production capacities in a drought context			
	Number of rainwater-harvesting systems in operation	0	350 additional systems	350
	Number of groundwater wells in operation	0	80 additional wells operational	118
	Number of household water storage systems in operation	0	350 additional water storage systems in operation	350
	Number of community water storage systems (jagüeyes) in operation	0	30 additional jagüeyes fully operational	30
	Number of households that have adopted greywater recycling practices for agricultural use	0	100 additional households	100
	Number of households that have adopted drip irrigation practices	0	100 additional households	100

	Water-tanker truck schedule agreed between communities and municipalities	0	1 agreement	1
<b>Output 2.</b> Vulnerable households relying on subsistence agriculture and/or livestock are provided with inputs and technical assistance to protect and diversify their livelihoods	Number of households that received agricultural inputs and technical assistance for crop protection or diversification during the growing season	0	1 050	1 050
	Number of households receiving nutrient blocks, livestock first aid kits and technical assistance to ensure animal health	0	350	540
	Number of households that received fishing gear	0	200	200
<b>Output 3.</b> Awareness is raised among beneficiaries and other participants on drought-related disaster risk management and anticipatory action approaches and their organization to take collective and individual actions that protect their livelihoods and their active engagement in the project is promoted	Number of people reached in awareness activities and trained on the basics of drought-related disaster risk management and anticipatory actions	0	4 167	4 578
	Number of people participating in community water forums	0	60	100
	Number of studies on the effects of anticipatory actions on reducing the impact of agricultural drought in Venezuelan Guajira, best practices and lessons learned	0	1	1







# Saving livelihoods saves lives

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