



# INVESTING IN EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE AND PRODUCTIVITY: HOW TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE IN MATAM

## WHY IS ACTION NEEDED?

Matam is one of the poorest and most food-insecure regions of Senegal.<sup>1</sup> Its economy is largely based on agriculture and pastoralism, thus vulnerable to climatic changes and socio-economic shocks. Matam experiences infrastructure weakness and poor access to many basic services, such as hospitals and schools. Education is still inaccessible to a large portion of young people.

FAO, together with the Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD), conducted a study examining food insecurity and resilience<sup>2</sup> through RIMA-II (see box). The analysis helps to better understand what affects Matam and how to improve inhabitants' livelihood.

This brief delivers policy initiatives that might be taken into consideration by the regional government of Matam in the policy design and implementation process.<sup>3</sup>

## WHAT SHOULD POLICYMAKERS DO?

To improve food security and strengthen resilience in Matam, policy actors may wish to do the following:

- 1. Focus on education** by reinforcing infrastructures in rural areas and ensuring access for girls;
- 2. Guarantee accessibility to clinic centres**, with the improvement of healthcare facilities and the information system, through the provision of exhaustive information to the population;

<sup>1</sup> More information on Matam and Senegal is available here: [documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp266798.pdf?\\_ga=1.14023863.1690723748.1461247589](https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp266798.pdf?_ga=1.14023863.1690723748.1461247589)

<sup>2</sup> Resilience is "the capacity that ensures shocks do not have long-lasting adverse development consequences". It is widely recognized as one of the most powerful means to mitigate and prevent food security crises.

<sup>3</sup> The whole *Resilience Analysis in Matam (Senegal) 2016* report is downloadable here: [www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/8bc6c291-6e84-456e-b9ba-723c265aa499](http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/8bc6c291-6e84-456e-b9ba-723c265aa499)

- 3. Encourage programmes aiming at increasing the participation of local communities into the decision-making process and local support networks**, to strengthen community perception of social inclusion and reduce the adoption of negative coping strategies;
- 4. Invest in the modernization of agriculture and diversification of agricultural production**, including technological innovations and interventions to improve land and water conservation; and
- 5. Promote demography-related interventions**, such as family planning, sexual and reproductive health, and female empowerment.

## MEASURING AND ANALYSING RESILIENCE

Since 2008 FAO has pioneered resilience measure by developing the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA-II). The tool allows to estimate household resilience capacity to food insecurity in two steps. Firstly it gives information on household resilience capacity through the estimation of the Resilience Capacity Index (RCI) and the Resilience Structure Matrix (RSM). These can be used to rank and target households from most to least resilient. The second part shows the role of shocks in explaining resilience capacity and describes the association between factors that contribute to resilience and food security. Through this, RIMA-II can provide clear policy indications.

RIMA-II has been applied in over ten countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including the Sahel and Horn of Africa. Next analyses will take place in Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Kenya, Uganda and Sudan.

# INCREASING RESILIENCE IN MATAM

BACKGROUND

- 45%** OF THE POPULATION BELOW THE POVERTY LINE
- 38%** CLASSIFIED AS FOOD INSECURE
- 15%** OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOES TO SECONDARY SCHOOL



**MATAM IN SENEGAL**

AGRO-PASTORALISTS

**51% RCI**



MIXED-LIVELIHOODS (MOSTLY URBAN)

**60% RCI**

LIVELIHOOD DIFFERENCES

- HEALTHCARE CENTRES**
- ELECTRICITY**
- SAFE WATER**
- LOCAL SUPPORT NETWORKS**

WHAT IS NEEDED?



**MATAM**



**AGRO-PASTORALISTS**

WHAT IS NEEDED?

- EDUCATION**
- AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY DIVERSIFICATION**
- INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES**

**IMPROVE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES**



**SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION TO DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES**



WHAT TO DO?  
WHAT TO DO?

**BUILD SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS AND GUARANTEE ACCESS TO GIRLS**



**PROMOTE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION**



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