

Project Evaluation Series

**Cluster evaluation of
“Establishing a Hunger-free Initiative for
West Africa”
and
“Mainstreaming Nutrition in CAADP and
Agriculture Policies and Programmes in
Sub-Saharan Africa”**

**Project codes: GCP/RAF/476/GER
and GCP/RAF/477/GER**

Annex 11. REC review - ECOWAS

1. The ECOWAS ECOWAP 2 Regional Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security Investment Program 2016-2020 (RAIP-FNS) covers the 15 member states. ECOWAP 2 is the second Regional Agriculture Investments Plan implemented in the region. GER 476 supported the review and the development of the RIAP methodology and development. Key Informants were staff members at RAAF (in Togo), Hub Rural (in Senegal), and Agriculture Direction of ECOWAS (in Nigeria). ECOWAS information suggests the below set up and advancement:
2. Leadership – The governance is strengthened within the framework of Zero Hunger and has distinct institutional arrangements for its implementation with a Consultative Committee on Agriculture and Food, and close coordination between ECOWAS, CILSS and UEMOA, to align policy implementation and country support.
3. Implementation plan & Budget – The policy has a regional implementation plan, with budget allocations. Clear indicator and action framework are provided, but need to be declined to country level by each of the member states.
4. Monitoring & evaluation – The M&E regional framework clarifies the linkages between national and regional level monitoring activities – a mechanism serving as source of M&E information, data centralization, and analysis and reporting system. Additionally the system, has accountability components laid out at the various decision-making levels for the monitoring the performance of the regional policy implementation. General implementation oversight, monitoring and reporting goes through usual ECOWAS structures and mechanisms.
5. Nutrition Marker review – ECOWAS scored 13pts out of 13.75pts - The ECOWAS RAIP-FNS falls short of the following criteria: absence of the reference indicators in the targets and indicator framework (0.75pts). The RIAP strongly integrates nutrition.
6. Other Notes – ECOWAS works closely with CILSS to strengthen food security and nutrition information and early warning mechanisms on crisis risks and develop the data collection and analysis process of the Cadre Harmonize further. The RIAP includes social safety nets with focus on fundamental social rights, i.e. minimum health cover, regular conditional and unconditional cash transfers, as well as one-off crisis response programs, with the main aim of improving food and nutrition security and resilience of the most vulnerable populations. Lastly, the RIAP development highlighted overlaps of function and complementary resources across the various regional technical institutions active in the region, i.e. DARD, RAAF, Animal Health Centre, WAHO etc. Review of structure and roles towards alignment and efficient resource usage are underway.
7. Conclusion: ECOWAS has made big strides to integrate nutrition in the ECOWAP 2. Its application and roll out to member state level, and development of capacities for implementation and monitoring are critical. This provides a great learning opportunity to support other RECs with the definition and implementation of regional policies or investment plans.