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THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA RESILIENCE STRATEGY 2021–2023

Increasing the resilience of
agriculture-based livelihood

The pathway to humanitarian–development–peace nexus

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BAY	Borno, Adamawa and Yobe
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBAHW	Community-Based Animal Health Worker
CBPP	Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
CH	Cadre Harmonisé
CPF	Country Programme Framework
ECA	Excessive Crude Account
ECOWAP	ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EWEA	Early Warning Early Action
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FFS	Farmer Field School
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FMHDS	Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development
FSS	Food Security Sector
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSLA	Group Savings and Loan Association
HDI	Human Development Index
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization

IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
IPOB	Indigenous People of Biafra
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Agency
LGA	Local Government Area
MDA	Ministry Development Agency
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PPR	Peste Des Petits Ruminants
RIMA	Resilience Index Measurement Analysis
SAFE	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agency
TAD	Transboundary Animal Disease
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Health
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With approximately 200 million people, the Federal Republic of Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa and one of the largest populations of youth in the world. The country's economy heavily depends on the revenue of the oil industry, which represents 80 percent of the country's export and contributes 18 percent of Nigeria's national gross domestic product (GDP). Despite the economic importance of Nigeria's oil and gas reserves, the country has a large agriculture-based economy, with two-thirds of the population dependent on the agriculture sector for employment. However, Nigeria has not been able to exploit the full potential of its agriculture sector, undermining efforts to tackle food insufficiency, food insecurity and malnutrition, rising poverty and high youth unemployment.

The food security challenges in Nigeria are significant. Nigeria faces a challenge of food insufficiency owing

to the reliance on rainfed agriculture, global economic downturn, low productivity, animal and plant pests and diseases, heightened food prices, increased frequency and intensity of natural hazards, climate variability and extremes, insecurity and conflict. The hardest hit are the poor and disadvantaged groups, such as orphans, female-headed households and those in rural communities and slums. Conflict and insecurity are considered the primary drivers of acute food insecurity, especially in the northern regions.

The northeast Nigeria insurgency of Boko Haram is one of the world's largest protection crises, in which civilians face serious risks to their safety, well-being and basic rights; while conflict in the North West and Middle Belt is characterized by violence between herders and farmers over natural resources, coupled with population growth, rapid urbanization, inequality and an increased unemployment rate, especially among



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youth. In conflict-affected areas, persistent insecurity is associated with renewed attacks, looting, banditry and border closure measures, seriously affecting market functionality and hindering access to crop fields and pastoral transhumance routes – culminating into multiple humanitarian crises, whereby massive numbers of displaced people are cut off from their typical livelihoods and thus, heavily rely on food aid.

Even in stable, more accessible areas of the country, food security continues to be undermined by low levels of production owing to reliance on rainfed agriculture, smallholder landholding, low productivity due to poor planting material, low soil fertility, land degradation, limited use of irrigation and limited agricultural extension and advisory services, among others. Moreover, Nigeria's agriculture sector is adversely affected by climate change. In recent decades, country-specific observations from studies show that various parts of the country are experiencing accentuated droughts, more severe floods and increased occurrence and intensity of storm surges, with concomitant flooding, coastal erosion, salinization of freshwater aquifers and variability in the availability of fisheries resources (Adefolalu, 1986).

Of recent, many countries across the global community are also facing unprecedented challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nigeria is no exception. Higher transaction costs for trade of essential goods and continued currency devaluation, following the global decline of oil prices, has resulted in a continued increase in food prices and decreased households' purchasing power – expected to further increase poverty, economic inequality and food insecurity. Although containment measures have eased and some formal and informal businesses have resumed operations, recovery from the economic shock will be challenging for poor households, especially if there is no certainty of their inclusion in the government's social protection programme.

It is within this context that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has developed a three-year strategy to strengthen resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods in Nigeria under recurring threats from both conflict and natural hazard-induced disasters to better withstand shocks and thrive. The strategy integrates the pathways for resilience through four main outcome areas:

- National institutions and their entities at federal and state levels, and local communities, have strengthened their governance system for disaster risk reduction, natural resources management and food crisis prevention and management in the agriculture sector.
- Agriculture-based livelihood interventions are informed by data, analysis and a well-established early warning system against known and emerging risks and hazards, for enhanced food security.
- Diversified, resilient and inclusive agriculture-based livelihood systems are promoted and adopted.
- Food security and nutrition, and agriculture-based livelihoods of crisis-affected populations are improved and protected.

In addition to responding to the most immediate needs, the FAO Resilience Strategy for Nigeria 2021–2023 will invest in medium- and long-term interventions through addressing the structural causes of poverty and food insecurity, and by reducing chronic vulnerabilities and risks. Wherever possible, FAO's resilience-oriented agriculture-based livelihood interventions will prioritize conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. Peacebuilding and stability are essential to invest in sustainable development and achieve new ways of working.

As the situation in Nigeria is dynamic and drivers contributing to vulnerability are changing, this strategy will apply a flexible targeting approach, responding to the evolving needs of the different target beneficiaries and geographical locations. Throughout the implementation of this strategy, FAO will actively participate in and commit to provide technical leadership in resilience partnerships and coordination fora at national and local levels. As the key United Nations (UN) agency for the promotion of agricultural livelihoods, FAO will play a leading role in strengthening synergies along the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

BACKGROUND

With approximately 200 million people, Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa and one of the largest populations of youth in the world. Nigeria accounts for about half of West Africa's population. With an abundance of natural resources, it is Africa's biggest oil exporter and has the largest natural gas reserves on the continent (World Bank Group, 2020). Culturally, Nigeria is a diverse country, made up of over 300 ethnic linguistic groups. The country presently operates a federal system, consisting of 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Abuja. The 36 states are grouped into six distinct geopolitical zones (North Central, North East, North West, South East, South South and South West), which to a great extent, reflect ethnic affinity. The states are also subdivided into 774 local government areas (LGAs), serving as administrative units and a third tier of government.

Although Nigeria has Africa's biggest economy, its GDP per capita of USD 2 386.90 (Trading Economics, 2020) lags that of South Africa – the continent's highest. The country's economy heavily depends on the revenue of the oil industry, which represents 80 percent of the country's export and contributes 18 percent of Nigeria's national GDP. This has made Nigeria highly vulnerable to the global economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly due to the pronounced decline in oil prices and spikes in risk aversion in the global capital markets. The economic situation is more challenging now than in 2015–2016, when oil prices fell sharply. The country is facing the second recession in the past 25 years of its history and has fewer buffers and policy instruments to cushion adverse effects. The Excess Crude Account (ECA) is depleted, external reserves are highly reliant on short-term flows and policy uncertainty affects investor confidence. Nigeria's economy was suffering even before the pandemic. In 2019, the nation's economic growth rate was only 2.2 percent, down from a rapid growth rate of 6.3 percent before the 2016 recession. Inflation rose from less than 10 percent in 2014 to about 12 percent in 2019. Whereas in 2014 the general government fiscal deficit was 1.8 percent of the GDP, while in 2019 it was 4.4 percent (World Bank Group, 2020).

Nigeria faces economic disparities, and socio-economic indicators for some of the northern regions are significantly below the national averages. Provision of services is only limited to state capitals (World Bank Group, 2011). Inequality, in terms of income and opportunities, remains high and has affected efforts of poverty reduction. The lack of job opportunities is at the core of the high poverty levels. Nearly 83 million Nigerians – approximately 40 percent of the country's population – live below the national poverty line, with an annual income of less than NGN 137 430 (USD 381.75) (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank estimated that around 2 million Nigerians would fall into poverty in 2020 owing to population growth outpacing economic growth. With COVID-19's economic impact, the recession is likely to have pushed an additional 5 million Nigerians into poverty in 2020, bringing the total newly poor to 7 million.

Despite the economic importance of Nigeria's oil and gas reserves, the country has a large agriculture-based economy, with two-thirds of the population dependent on the agriculture sector for employment. Agricultural contributions to the national GDP stand at 22 percent, still exceeding the value of industry (Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), 2018). The country faces significant development challenges, including the need to reduce dependency on oil and diversify the economy, address insufficient infrastructure, and build strong and effective institutions. These pre-existing structural challenges have left the Nigerian economy especially vulnerable to the COVID-19 outbreak and its consequences. With the economic impact of COVID-19, unemployment and underemployment are expected to increase, affecting poor households and increasing the share of the population vulnerable to falling into poverty. Some reports suggest that only agriculture is expected to positively contribute to growth in 2020.

Moreover, Nigeria faces multiple crises, including the protracted armed conflict in the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) states, which have led to the internal displacement of more than 1.9 million people. Of these, 294 000 took refuge in neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and the Niger (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 2020b). The Boko Haram-related violence in northeastern Nigeria has spilled over to areas of neighbouring Sahelian countries in the Lake Chad Basin, creating what has become a devastating regional conflict, specifically across Cameroon,

Chad and the Niger, with detrimental effects on food security and livelihoods. This adds to a lasting crisis in the oil-rich Niger Delta, where several non-state armed groups attack oil companies and state-owned pipelines. Communities in the northern regions, especially in states bordering the Sahel, face chronic poverty, harsh climatic conditions (drought and floods), recurrent epidemics, poor infrastructure and limited access to basic social services, leading to widespread conflict and insecurity. Additional conflicts include the farmer–herder crisis in the Middle Belt region and the intercommunal conflicts and clashes with bandits in the North West, which have led to over 40 000 people crossing the border to the Niger for safety. Nigeria also hosts approximately 50 000 Cameroonian refugees in the west. According to INFORM Global Risk Index, Nigeria is among the countries with the highest overall projected conflict risk index (OCHA, 2019a). This has left the country grappling with multiple humanitarian crises that have increased the vulnerability of rural dwellers, placing large numbers of the population in these areas in critical food insecurity situations. Severe climate variability, further aggravates these challenges, negatively affecting production systems and leading to reduced crop yields, fishery and livestock productivity across the country.

AGRICULTURE

Nigeria has not been able to exploit the full potential of its agriculture sector, undermining efforts to tackle food insufficiency and insecurity, rising poverty and high youth unemployment. This is manifested in the importation of food the country could produce, such as wheat and fish, among other food commodities. The agricultural land under cultivation is minimal, with only 34.4 million ha (42 percent) of arable land currently under cultivation. Nigeria has six distinct, diversified agroecological zones that ranges from the forest (Southern Guinea Savanna) in the south, with up to 1 500 mm rainfall per year, to the northern Sahel Saharan zone, with up to 500 mm rainfall per year. The main agricultural commodities cutting across the different agroecological zones in the country, despite being underdeveloped and unexploited, include food and cash crops. The sector is largely dominated by rainfed subsistence farming and has experienced declining productivity during the last decade resulting from various factors, such as climate change, unfavourable policy environment and limited application of

appropriate technology. Nigeria spends billions of US dollars on importing food the country could grow. Such imports have negatively affected the local producers and render the local farmers poor. The present state of market disorientation is another important issue in Nigeria's agriculture. Across the country, the market remains the weakest link of the agricultural value chain, whereby there is no national market for farm products for effective disposal of farm output. The Federal Government of Nigeria's policy efforts to reorganize the national market have not yielded the desired results.

More than 80 percent of Nigeria's farmers are considered small family farms, depending on a diverse range of crops, livestock and fish. Nigeria's small family farmers own 0.5 ha of land on average, predominantly managing mixed crop-livestock systems, including fish farming (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2017). Smallholders produce 99 percent of Nigeria's agricultural outputs, yet their productivity is hindered by several limitations. Major constraints to small family farming in Nigeria include the lack and high cost of labour and agricultural inputs in rural areas, limited access to information, modern agricultural technology and adequate financial services, and land tenure. Half of the people working in agriculture belong to the poorest 40 percent of the population and are their food security and means of livelihood (agriculture-based) are experiencing high vulnerability and weak resilience.

With a sustainable exploitation of its natural resources and endowments, Nigeria has the potential to become a major player in the global economy. After a shift from agriculture to crude oil and gas in the late 1960s, Nigeria's growth has continued to be driven by consumption and high oil prices (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2017b). Despite the challenges the agriculture sector faces, Nigeria remains an agricultural economic country with a future of potential high growth.

Nigeria's agriculture comprises crop production, livestock rearing, forestry and fishing. In 2016, the agriculture sector accounted for 21.2 percent of the GDP and employed 39.5 percent of the labour force (World Bank Group, 2018). However, it is often reported that as much as 70 percent of the labour force is involved in agricultural activities to varying extents. Crop production is subdivided into subsistence and cash crops. The most important subsistence crops are maize, cassava, sorghum, yam, beans, rice, groundnut, and to a

lesser extent, millet, soyabean and cocoyam. The main cash crops are palm oil, cottonseed, cocoa, cashew and sugarcane. The livestock sector had an estimated 20.6 million head of cattle in 2016 – the largest herd in Africa. During the same year, the rapidly growing poultry sector supplied an estimated 146 million birds, while the numbers of goats and sheep amounted to 73.8 and 42.1 million, respectively (FAO, 2018).

The food security challenges in Nigeria are significant. The pressure from population growth is tremendous, with the population currently standing at 200 million and an estimated annual growth rate of 3.2 percent (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Furthermore, the agriculture sector is adversely affected by climate change. Depletion of water resources and unpredictable rainfall patterns are having a significant impact on production systems and leading to crop failure. Despite government measures on the importation of some food items such as rice, Nigeria is one of the world's largest importers of wheat, dairy products and horticultural crops. According to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), the main factors undermining production include reliance on rainfed agriculture, smallholder landholding, low productivity due to poor planting material, low soil fertility, land degradation, limited use of irrigation and limited agricultural extension system, among others.

Additional challenges faced by the sector include limited access to financing and inputs for farmers, limited access of agricultural outputs to the national and international markets, and limited access to social protection and security, especially for self-employed and poor farmers. Insecurity threats to agricultural investment, including cattle rustling, kidnapping and destruction of farmlands by herders, and more significantly, the insecurity and insurgency of Boko Haram in the North East region.

Despite these challenges, the agriculture sector has the potential to be highly productive. There are areas where land and water resources are currently underutilized and production can be expanded in an environmentally sustainable manner with climate-smart approaches. The foundation for a vibrant agricultural industry is in place, with approximately 79 million ha of arable land, 214 billion m³ of surface water and 87 billion m³ of groundwater, with the latter two having the potential to be partly used for irrigation (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2020).

FOOD SECURITY

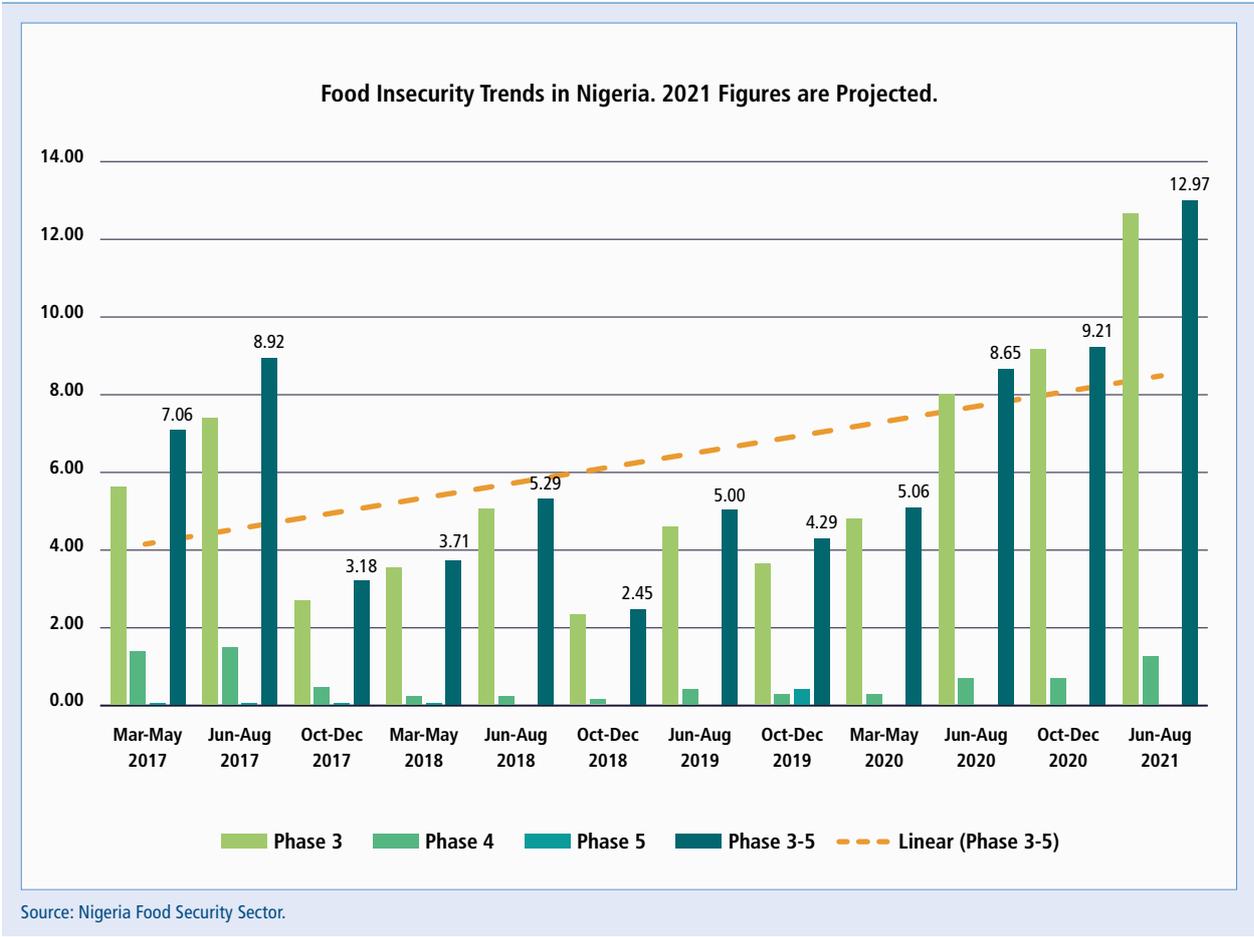
Nigeria faces a challenge of food insufficiency owing to various factors, including reliance on rainfed agriculture, global economic downturn, increase in food prices, increased frequency and intensity of natural hazards, climate variability and extremes, insecurity and conflict. The hardest hit are the poor and disadvantaged groups, such as orphans, female-headed households and those in rural communities and slums. Conflict and insecurity are considered the primary drivers of acute food insecurity, especially in the North East region. As a result of conflict and insecurity, massive numbers of displacement populations have been cut off from accessing their typical livelihoods and rely on food aid. The majority of households experience below-average harvests and have limited access to income-earning activities and markets. Households in these areas also experience limited participation in off-season activities due to security concerns. Conflicts can result in the destruction or closure of basic social services and the disruption of productive activities, markets and trade flows. The persistent insecurity in conflict-affected areas, associated with renewed attacks, looting, banditry and border closure measures, has affected market functionality and hinders access to crop fields and pastoral transhumance routes, resulting in severe consequences to food security.

The *Cadre Harmonisé* (CH) is a unifying tool that helps to produce relevant, consensual, rigorous and transparent analyses of current and projected food and nutrition situations. It classifies the severity of food and nutrition insecurity based on the international classification scale through an approach that refers to well-defined functions and protocols. Similar to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), the CH relies on the existing food security and nutrition information systems already in place in most Sahel countries since 1985, and in other coastal countries of West Africa. Currently, the CH is only covering 16 states and the FCT of Abuja. According to the most recent CH report, for the period October to December 2020, approximately 10 million people (9.8 percent) of the analysed population are in the critical phases (Phase 3–5) of food and nutrition insecurity. Of these population, 689 128 (6.9 percent) are resident in completely inaccessible or inaccessible communities of partially accessible LGAs in BAY states.

Also, the report projects that in the absence of intensified resilience-driven livelihood interventions and food aid support from the humanitarian actors, these figures are likely to increase to 12.9 million people (12.1 percent) across the 15 states and the FCT during the projected period June to August 2021 (FAO, 2020). According to the Technical Committee of the CH, 19.4 million people in West Africa, the Sahel and Cameroon were estimated to be in crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) (CILISS, 2020). This figure is expected to increase to 25.9 million during the peak of the 2021 lean season period June to August 2021. Of these 25.9 million people, Nigeria accounts for 50.1 percent (13 million).

In addition, the macroeconomic conditions remain fragile. Recently, the government formally announced a recession and continued high annual inflation rate. The November 2020 annual inflation rate was valued at 14.89 percent, driven by low foreign reserves, high staple prices and the low value of the Naira (SWAC/OECD Secretariat, 2020). Food prices across the country are above average, with prices even higher in conflict-affected areas of the North East. With the continuation of protracted crisis and insecurity in the North East, and with the increase of conflict between animal herders and farmers due to competing and meager natural resources in the North West, the food security situation will continue to be undermined.

FIGURE 1
CH/IPC analysis of food security trends 2017–2021



Source: Nigeria Food Security Sector.



MAIN SHOCKS

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEGRADATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Climate variability and climate change have serious consequences, ranging from the immediate impact of extreme weather events to longer-term impacts of droughts and desertification on food production, malnutrition, water scarcity, and increased spread of infectious diseases. The poorest and most vulnerable populations are likely to experience the most severe impacts. Nigeria's landscape is ecologically rich and diverse, with rainforests in the south and drylands in the north. Therefore, the challenges associated with climate change are not the same across the country. High levels of aridity, drought and desertification in the north are increasing vulnerability to climate change – more so than in the south. The combination of rising heat and diminished rain has hastened desert encroachment with the loss of wetlands. Rapid reductions in the amount of surface water are aggravating the situation in the North East and North West. The South West and South East are relatively less vulnerable than other parts of the country. Thus, southern Nigeria, especially the South South (Niger Delta region), is the most vulnerable due to rising sea levels, increased precipitation, coastal erosion and flooding, which have resulted in the displacement of many settlements (Haider, 2019). Unsustainable management and utilization of natural resources have further increased vulnerabilities of the population to natural hazards and climate variability and extremes. Nigeria has one of the highest rates of forest depletion in the world. In the decade between 1990 and 2000, according to an FAO study in 2010, the country lost an average of 407 700 ha of forest per annum, an average deforestation rate of 3.5 percent per annum.

Agriculture in Africa is especially vulnerable to climate change and variability because of its high dependence on seasonal rainfall. In Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and second-largest economy, agriculture accounts for nearly 21.2 percent of the country's GDP. More than 70 percent of the economically active population and their dependents rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Country-specific observations from studies conducted in recent decades show that various parts of

Nigeria have already experienced the impacts of climate change. These include accentuated droughts, severe floods and increased occurrence and intensity of storm surges, with concomitant flooding, coastal erosion, salinization of freshwater aquifers and variability in the availability of fisheries resources (Adefolalu, 1986). Projections of future climate trends suggest that global warming may further aggravate these problems (Abiodun, Lawal, Salami and Abatan, 2013).

In recent years, Nigeria has frequently been affected by floods. Nigeria is located downstream from other flood-prone countries and affected by rainfall patterns and responses by its neighbours. This makes the country particularly vulnerable to floods (Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency, 2020). The most notable incidences were the devastating floods in 2012 and 2018, in which many lives were lost, property damaged and livelihoods generally disrupted, with attendant adverse socio-economic consequences. In 2012, the release of water from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon led to flooding in 27 Nigerian states. Flash flooding in the Niger and Mali increases the risk of severe flooding in northwestern Nigeria, which is located downstream from these countries. If these countries release water from their dams into the Niger and Benue rivers, it is likely to cause flooding in the downstream Nigerian states of Kebbi and Niger, as occurred in 2019.

Droughts negatively impact the socio-economic growth of Nigeria and are projected to become more severe in the future because of climate change. Significant drought years occurred in 1973 and 1983, and persistent droughts have the possibility of causing crop failure, loss of livestock and famine. The rainfall variabilities highly impact most smallholder producers who depend on rainfed agriculture, especially for those residing in the northern regions. Additionally, desertification has been occurring in Nigeria with desert conditions moving southward. This desertification is compounded by human population growth and rapid urbanization as cities sprawl ever larger and wider, and in some cases, into formerly designated cattle routes and reserves. Routes that dated back to the 1950s, in line with colonial arrangements, have either been cultivated by smallholder farmers who are now claiming large swathes of grazing land or dominated by new human settlements, pushing herders further into contested territories (Sunday, 2021). Scarcity of natural resources and competition over pasture and water has resulted

in new patterns of banditry attacks that begun in Nigeria in 2011, reflecting violent competition for scarce resources, mainly between farmers and herders in the North West. Land and water have become precious commodities, especially because of environmental and ecological changes in the area, including desertification. Conflict over resources, including livestock in certain cases, is leading to farmer–herder clashes with fighting between armed nomadic herders and armed sedentary farmers.

Cutting across the country, land degradation is a serious problem in Nigeria. A significant proportion of land for agriculture is degraded owing to inappropriate soil management practices, deforestation, over-exploitation of rangelands and soil pollution that has led to a progressive and severe loss of the original vegetation cover. The degradation is causing irreversible soil erosion, deterioration of soil fertility, declining availability of fodder species and biodiversity for livestock and wildlife, and loss of agricultural land and its productive potential. All of these factors are resulting in decreased availability of land for agriculture and pastoral livestock production. The land degradation in the northern regions of the country has resulted in impacts on agricultural resources that further exacerbate the economic and social conditions of the region. Agricultural and pastoral expansions, agricultural intensification and fuelwood extraction, compounded by rainfall variability, significantly contribute to land degradation in northern Nigeria. The growing pattern of conflict between animal herders and farmers in the Middle Belt due to drought, desertification and scarce water and pasture has forced herders in northern and central Nigeria to move further south to access grazing land and water sources for their cattle. The Boko Haram insurgency in the North East is forcing herding communities from the northeastern BAY states to seek safety elsewhere.

Fisheries, especially around Lake Chad, are hugely impacted as well. Due to increased salinity and the shrinking of lakes and rivers, the rise of sea levels and extreme weather, the potential to fish has decreased. Forestry erosion and excessive wind is also reducing the amount of forestry produce, such as wood and cane. Forests are under significant pressure not only from climate change, but also from increasing populations and greater demand for forest resources.

CONFLICT AND INSECURITY

Nigeria faces multiple humanitarian crises triggered by conflict and insecurity. Such conflicts include the protracted conflict in the BAY states, the resurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta region, the nationwide communal conflicts involving herders and farming populations (particularly in the Middle Belt and the southern states), the agitations for secession championed by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the South East and the increasing incidents of kidnapping for ransom are all manifestations of the growing incidence of conflicts and violence in the country. The prevalence of conflict in all the geopolitical zones is a major human rights and security concern, considering the allegations of abuse and violations related to the situation. Vulnerable returnee migrants, as well as unaccompanied and separated children who need psychosocial support, are also affected by this situation. The 2016 Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment concluded that the conflicts in Nigeria are fueled by many factors. These include political, social and economic exclusion and marginalization of some segments of the society. Other factors are cultural and ideological, environmental degradation, climate change vulnerability and low levels of human security, compounded by porous borders in the West Africa and Sahel subregion.

The northeast Nigeria insurgency of Boko Haram is one of the world's largest protection crises, in which civilians face serious risks to their safety, well-being and basic rights. Since the start of the conflict in 2009, more than 27 000 people have been killed in the BAY states (OCHA, 2019b). According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 7.1 million people across the BAY states need humanitarian assistance, the majority of whom are women and children. After more than ten years of conflict, the group continues to carry out high-profile attacks against the military and civilians in the BAY states. In 2019, a resurgence and escalation of the Boko Haram crisis was witnessed across the North East. About 800 000 people in the affected area are entirely inaccessible (OCHA, 2019c). Violence in the North East has caused massive displacement and restricted movement. It has disrupted food supplies, hindered access to basic services and limited agricultural activities. Food security, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection assistance continue to be priority needs.

In the North West, banditry violence has affected populations living in Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger, Sokoto, Kebbi and Katsina states. About 21 million people living in these states have been exposed to insecurity from the activities of bandits. The banditry violence began as a farmer–herder conflict in 2011 and intensified between 2017 and 2018 to include cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, sexual violence and killings. The violence has affected about 35 out of 92 LGAs in the four states. The discovery of gold mines and the activities of illegal miners competing for the control of gold reserves have further intensified the activities of armed groups in the North West. By March 2020, more than 210 000 people were internally displaced as a result, and more than 35 000 refugees had crossed communal borders to Maradi in the Niger by the beginning of March 2020 (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2020).

The violence between herders and farmers has continued for decades in the Middle Belt states of Taraba, Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Nasarawa and Adamawa. Violence arises from tensions over land between Fulani animal herders and farming communities (United Nations Environment Programme, 2018). From January to June 2018, the farmer–herder clashes left more than 1 300 people dead and displaced 300 000 people across the country (International Crisis Group, 2018). Fulani herder attacks on farming communities primarily concerns access to scarce natural resources. The households affected and displaced by intercommunal conflict continue to face greater food insecurity. The clashes over land and water have arisen as drought and desertification in the Sahel region have forced nomadic herding communities in the north and central parts of Nigeria to seek grazing lands further south. Rapid population growth in much of Nigeria has pushed farmers into unsettled land traditionally used for cattle grazing. The growing use of commercial fertilizer means farmers no longer rely on dung from herders’ animals for fertilizer. Since many farmers and herders live at subsistence level, changes such as these threaten their ability to survive. In addition, some states have passed pastoral legislation that contain restrictive clauses concerning the mobility of livestock. Such legislation mainly aims to confine livestock to areas reserved for grazing, limiting the movement of animals between states. This, coupled with options for intensification of livestock systems favoured by the government, have benefited

the creation of private ranches, which often involve the acquisition of large tracts of land; thus, considerably reducing the pastoral space available for mobile livestock.

The conflict in the North West and Middle Belt is characterized by conflict over natural resources (water, grazing pasture, cropping land), coupled with population growth, rapid urbanization, inequality and increased unemployment rate, especially among youth.

In addition, the growing Cameroonian refugee population in the south has culminated into a complex country crisis for the West African giant. Nigeria is also hosting around 60 000 Cameroonian refugees. The intensification of the Anglophone crisis in the English-speaking North West and South West regions is causing massive displacement, and over 60 000 people have had to flee these areas and cross into neighbouring Nigeria. More than 679 000 people remain displaced in the Northwest, Southwest, West and Littoral regions of Cameroon. These refugees are hosted in the Nigerian states of Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba – adding to the country’s humanitarian crises.

ANIMAL AND PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES

Transboundary plant pests and diseases affect food crops, causing significant losses to farmers and threatening food security. The spread of transboundary plant pests and diseases has increased dramatically in recent years. Globalization, trade and climate change, as well as reduced resilience in production systems owing to decades of agricultural intensification, have all played a part (FAO, 2013). Biological hazards, such as desert locust, aphids, sorghum midge, fall armyworm, termites, rodents and quelea birds, are reported to be causing crop loss (mainly cereals such as millet, sorghum, maize and rice) affecting the maize belt. Moreover, Nigeria is a crossroads for cattle from other countries. Transhumance migrants from Cameroon, the Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad routinely pass through in search of better climate, pasture and more plentiful water, culminating in tremendous pressure on the national efforts targeted at control of endemic diseases, such as contagious

bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), foot-and-mouth disease, avian influenza and Newcastle disease, among others. This poses a significant implication for livelihoods in Nigeria and the greater region. High numbers of livestock as a result of seasonal migration patterns also mean the country is susceptible to disease outbreaks, including some never reported in the country.

In 2006, the Nigerian poultry sector was the first to be affected in Africa by the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1, killing thousands of birds. The threat of new avian influenza outbreak remains a constant risk for the country and for the entire West Africa region.

Domestic capacities for biological and clinical services are not in top shape as a result of obsolete and dilapidated facilities and infrastructure. Vaccine failure is prevalent owing to poor control of trade and application, poor quality and cold-chain incontinence. Records of epidemics' morbidity, mortality and interventions are poorly kept, and in many cases, outright absent with dire consequences for planning, policy and coordination.

Due to massive pest damage to crops in the past few years, many farmers are now turning to chemical pesticides for solutions to the pest problem. Prognosis of future trends in pesticide usage among farmers reveals the likely danger of farmers becoming pesticide dependent, with the consequent possibilities of human poisoning and eventual aggravation of the pest problem. However, farmers in Nigeria have a deep knowledge of all insects, animal and fungi pests. They can identify each pest, know their breeding cycles and their general behavioral characteristics, make a relatively accurate assessment of the damages caused by the pest and develop an indigenous integrated pest management strategy.

The immediate impact of enhanced pest pressure and crop losses weighs heavy on farmers' income and livelihoods, particularly for smallholders. Thus, the effects of misused chemical pesticides and reduced yields are much broader and can lead to severe problems in the broader ecosystem and its ability to support vital ecosystem services. These impacts can adversely affect local and national food security, economy and employment.

ECONOMIC CRISES

Nigeria has one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, with a GDP per capita of USD 2 292 (World Bank Group, 2019). The economy, which maintained a steady growth between 1999 and 2014, entered a recession in 2016, and more recently, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the government announcing an economic recession for the second time. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line. Nigeria's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2019 is 0.539, which places the country in the low human development category, positioning it at 161 out of 189 countries and territories. This number represents an increase of 15.9 since 2005, when the HDI value was 0.465 (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2019). Development shortfalls, such as low earnings for individuals, poor social indicators and inequality by income, gender and location, persist in Nigeria. The UN Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index and the National Bureau of Statistics data indicate that poverty and hunger have remained high in rural areas, in remote communities and among female-headed households. High levels of poverty and hunger occur in multiple geopolitical zones – from North Central (19.3 percent) to South West (45.7 percent) to North West (80.9 percent) (UNDP, 2015). An analysis of poverty prevalence by states indicates wide variations. Moreover, poverty and location are correlated with limited access to nutrition, health, education, shelter, clean water, sanitation and electricity, with the northern regions recording lower development and social indicators compared to southern regions. Thus, the human development outcomes remain low in a country that missed most of the Millennium Development Goals despite its abundant resources and wealth.

The country's economy depends heavily on the revenue of the oil industry, which represents 80 percent of the country's export and contributes 18 percent of Nigeria's national GDP. This has made Nigeria highly vulnerable to the global economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly due to the pronounced decline in oil prices and the spikes in risk aversion in global capital markets. For the second time in 25 years, the nation is in a recession. The economic situation during the pandemic is even more severe than it was in 2015–2016, during a sharp decline in oil prices. The country has fewer resources

now to buffer the present financial crisis. Investor confidence is diminished due in part to policy uncertainties. The ECA has been depleted and external reserves rely heavily on short-term cash flows. The situation now is much worse than before the 2016 recession when Nigeria's economy was growing at the brisk pace of 6.3 percent – a rate that diminished to 2.2 percent even before the pandemic was in single digits in 2014, compared to about 12 percent in 2019. Meanwhile, the Government of Nigeria's overall fiscal deficit rose from 1.8 percent of the GDP in 2014 to 4.4 percent in 2019, compared to 1.8 percent in 2014 (World Bank Group, 2020).

The macroeconomic situation is more challenging now than in 2015–2016, when oil prices fell sharply and Nigeria experienced its first recession in 25 years, and when the macroeconomic conditions continued to decline with the formal announcement of a recession and a continued high annual inflation rate. The November 2020 annual inflation rate was valued at 14.89 percent, driven by low foreign reserves, high staple prices and the low value of the Naira. The parallel market exchange rate was NGN 476 per USD in early December 2020, while the official rate was NGN 380 per USD. Both rates have remained somewhat stable since August 2020. Government reductions of domestic petrol costs from NGN 167 to 162 per litre (in response to threats of strike) will probably reduce transportation costs somewhat, along with the price of staples, such as sorghum, rice, millet and maize. However, the prices of these grains are still higher than they were in 2020. Conflict contributes further to the elevated staple prices, which are nearly 50 percent higher in conflict-affected areas than in neighbouring markets (FEWS NET, 2020b).

Inequality of income and opportunity continues to be a serious problem in Nigeria and presents an obstacle to poverty reduction efforts. The lack of job opportunities is at the core of the high poverty levels, regional inequality, and social and political unrest. Even before the pandemic, the World Bank estimated that approximately 2 million Nigerians would enter a state of poverty in 2020, with the country's economic growth not keeping pace with its population growth. Now, according to World Bank estimates, another 5 million Nigerians – for a total of 7 million – are expected to enter poverty in 2020 (World Bank Group, 2020).

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Many countries across the global community are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nigeria is no exception. The first COVID-19 case was announced on 27 February 2020 in Lagos, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). As on 22 January 2021, Nigeria had 114 691 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 1 478 deaths (World Health Organization, 2021). The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control is the government agency in charge of COVID19 preparedness and response activities. Since the outbreak of the pandemic in January 2020, the Government of Nigeria established a Coronavirus Preparedness Group. National and international Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations and UN agencies are also engaged in responding to the pandemic and the effects of the COVID-19 containment measures.

As in other countries, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the health system hard. Nigeria's health system is fragile due to the underfunding and limited infrastructure. Compared with health spending in other Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, Nigeria's pre-pandemic annual spending on health was already low at USD 27.84 per person (Aref-Adib and Martin, 2020). In some areas of the country, hospitals and health centres are understaffed. Although this is not the case across the whole country, COVID-19 poses a threat to the Nigerian health system, especially in the conflict-affected areas of the North East. According to OCHA, two-thirds of health facilities in the BAY states are not functioning because of conflict-related damage. COVID-19 has put a strain on health facilities in states that record high numbers of cases, including Lagos, Kano and Zamfara.

The severe health crisis caused by COVID-19 has resulted in a major economic crisis as well. The pandemic was preceded by one of the most severe economic shocks in the nation's recorded history: a major decline in oil prices by 55 percent between late December 2019 and March 2020. This shock was particularly serious because oil constitutes 90 percent of Nigeria's export revenues and 65 percent of the government revenues (Sayne and Gillies, 2020). This decline in prices has resulted in Nigeria reducing its oil production and exports. Depletion of foreign re-

serves in the Nigerian Central Bank has made it difficult to stabilize the local currency Naira against the US dollar, causing a rapid depreciation of the Naira (given countries normally get foreign currency from exports to replenish their reserves). The macroeconomic conditions continued to decline with the formal announcement of a recession and continued high annual inflation rate. The November 2020 annual inflation rate was valued at 14.89 percent, driven by low foreign reserves, high staple prices and the low value of the Naira. Consequently, prices of essential goods have risen, mainly caused by decreased trade following movement restrictions and lockdowns in Nigeria and at global level. Higher transaction costs for trade of essential goods caused by prolonged movement restrictions and continued currency devaluation, following the global decline of oil prices, will likely result in a continued increase in prices and decreased households' purchasing power.

The economic fallout from the crash in oil prices and the economic effects of the COVID-19 is expected to worsen poverty and economic inequalities in the country. Prior to the pandemic, the Nigerian economy was characterized by slow growth, high inflation rates, currency fluctuation and high levels of poverty. Fifteen percent of the world's poorest reside in Nigeria; urban crime, kidnappings and herder–pastoralist clashes are widespread in some areas due to poverty, limited resources and lack of economic opportunities. There is a risk that the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will exacerbate insecurity (OCHA, 2020a).

Even though agricultural activities have not been halted by the government's containment measures, the inter- and intra-state movement restrictions have impacted the agriculture sector. Households in rural areas and seasonal workers struggled to access land during the planting season (March–June). The majority of the population in Nigeria is rural, and agricultural activities are essential to the economy and a means of subsistence for rural households. According to FEWS NET (FEWS NET, 2020a), the disruption of livelihood activities, increased food prices and reduced agricultural production resulting from the COVID-19 containment measures risk worsening food insecurity in the country.

In addition, the containment measures and movement restrictions have impacted informal workers as

businesses were closed, trades were decreased (import, export and inter-state trade), leading to higher prices for goods and services, unemployment and loss of income. Informal workers are particularly vulnerable to the negative economic effects of movement restrictions and social distancing measures, given that they often have low levels of earnings and savings and lack access to social protection. The informal sector accounts for 80 percent of employment in Nigeria (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2018).

In addition, the government has announced socio-economic programmes to ease the impact of the COVID-19 containment measures. These include a moratorium for loans received by businesses within the framework of the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programmes and cash transfers of NGN 20 000 (approximately USD 51) to some 2.6 million poor households for a period of four months (ACAPS, 2020). Food distribution has also been scaled up by the government in response to the COVID-19 containment measures (FEWS NET, 2020a).

Although containment measures have been eased and some formal and informal businesses have resumed, recovery from the economic shock will be challenging for poor households, especially if there is no certainty of their inclusion in the government's social protection programme. Additionally, the country has gone through a second wave of COVID-19. Now some localized measures and containment are imposed. Should the number of cases continue to increase exponentially, the government may be obliged to announce new or renewed lockdowns and movement restrictions, causing a second economic shock.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



DISTRIBUTION OF LIVESTOCK TO FARMERS IN
BORNO STATE

STORING AN
BASED LIVELI
AND NUT



FAO IN NIGERIA: PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO

FAO'S WORK IN NIGERIA

For over 40 years, FAO has been working across the country with more focus on boosting government efforts in ensuring that the agriculture sector is on a growth path, contributes to the national economy, people's incomes and food security and nutrition. The FAO programme, guided by the Country Programming Framework (CPF), is responding and providing humanitarian assistance to support agriculture and food security in crisis-affected areas, as well as contributing to the long-term sustainable development of agriculture in Nigeria.

The FAO CPF priority areas for Nigeria for 2018 – 2022 are:

- Strengthen national food and nutrition security through enhanced nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart food systems.
- Support appropriate and operationally effective agricultural policy and regulatory frameworks.
- Support Nigeria's economic diversification agenda and the promotion of decent employment for youth and women in agricultural value chains.
- Improve efficient and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.
- Enhance disaster risk reduction, resilience building and emergency management towards strengthening the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

With the government and partners, the FAO Representation in Nigeria has continued to implement programmes that are contributing to the attainment of the five key country programme priorities. Guided by the National Food Safety Policy, FAO is working with partners to improve regulatory systems for ensuring compliance with food safety and nutrition standards on micronutrient levels in fortified foods in the country. FAO is leading on advocacy with other partners to create awareness and ensure that the recent National Food Safety and Quality Bill will be approved by the Federal Executive Council and passed at the National Assembly.

In line with the national Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy, FAO is supporting different government initiatives by providing technical assistance to boost the implementation of the national strategy, such as the school feeding programme to improve nutrition through increased nutrition knowledge, and access and availability of nutritious vegetables. FAO is also providing technical support to the Government of Nigeria in the organization and planning of the National Food Consumption and Micronutrient Survey to collect nationally representative food security data (using the food insecurity experience scale indicator) and the codification of the food data collected. Data collected from the survey will support the revision of food-based dietary guidelines for the country. In addition, FAO supported the Government of Nigeria in developing the Africa Sustainable Livestock Plan 2050, which aims to build upon the evidence on the nature of the demand for animal sourced foods in Nigeria in the next 30–40 years, given the rapidly growing population, enhanced consumer purchasing power and urbanization. Evidence from these studies is highlighting areas of enhanced profitability and intensification for both public and private investments, identifying opportunities and threats associated with the long-term development of livestock and improved nutrition. FAO has continued to provide technical and capacity building support to relevant government agencies on the techniques of monitoring, reporting and control measures on pest reduction and animal diseases. FAO has also established an Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases to strengthen animal health capacity in country and contribute to the Global Health Security Agenda.

Moreover, FAO continues to support appropriate and operationally effective agricultural policy and regulatory frameworks, through providing technical support to FMARD to achieve the federal government's economic diversification agenda through an agribusiness ecosystems approach, with guidance on appropriate technologies and innovations. FAO has continued to support the strengthening of the seeds system in Nigeria, the revision of the existing National Seeds Act and its harmonization with the regional economic body ECOWAS. FAO supported the Government of Nigeria in drafting the National Fisheries Policy and National Aquaculture Strategy. FAO is also strengthening institutional capacity for improved data and information systems for policy planning and tracking of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to food and agriculture at national and state levels to inform policymakers for appropriate decisions.

FAO's programme invests in the areas of agricultural value chains and promotion of youth and women in the agriculture sector through the creation of decent jobs and income-generating opportunities. These efforts contribute to Nigeria's Economic Diversification Agenda. Land degradation, climate change and desertification continue to have devastating impacts on agriculture and food security. Thus, the FAO programme is also supporting the efficient and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems. For example, supporting the palm oil and cocoa farmers to efficiently benefit from sustainably cocoa and palm oil value chains, while ensuring sustainable utilization of the natural ecosystem. In areas affected by desertification, particularly in the northern part of the country, FAO is supporting the Great Green Wall Agency to combat desertification and improve resilience to climate change and promote sustainable livelihoods.

FAO'S RESILIENCE WORK SINCE 2016

After the spillover of the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East region, stakeholders and humanitarian actors, including FAO, started scaling up operations to provide humanitarian assistance to millions of displaced and conflict-affected people across the BAY states. As a result of the conflict, 1.9 million people are displaced and more than 3.6 million are estimated to be refugees in neighbouring countries, such as the Niger, Chad and Cameroon. The conflict and insecurity badly hit the agriculture sector – a main source of employment in the country. The government estimated that more than USD 3.7 billion are lost since the start of the insurgency.

Within this context, the FAO programme in the North East focuses on implementing emergency agricultural and food system interventions and strategies aimed at building the resilience of agriculture-based livelihood recovery in order to ensure that all households in the North East have the means to resume their livelihood activities. The FAO emergency and resilience programme in Nigeria is anchored in the CPF priorities and informed by the FAO corporate resilience framework. The focus of FAO resilience interventions for Nigeria includes the key areas below:

Support food security information analysis and coordination mechanisms

FAO, with the Government of Nigeria and key partners, including the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, supported the implementation

of the CH tool for analysing the food and nutrition vulnerability situation in Nigeria. The CH tool is part of the ECOWAS regional framework for the consensual analysis of acute food insecurity and aims to strengthen food security information and analysis across West Africa. The CH is conducted twice a year; it provides early warning information that triggers actions by governments, humanitarian agencies and development partners towards reducing food insecurity and malnutrition vulnerability. Currently, the CH is covering 16 northern states (Bauchi, Adamawa, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe, Borno, Kano, Jigawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, Kebbi, Sokoto, Niger, Benue and Plateau) and the FCT. The CH benchmark and outcomes are key for planning the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan for the North East, especially the three most affected states of Adamawa, Yobe and Borno. FAO has been building the capacity of relevant officials of line ministries, departments and agencies at national and subnational levels to undertake the CH analysis, and the Government of Nigeria is intending to expand the process to cover the entire country.

Increase food production and reduce dependency on food assistance

FAO is supporting conflict-affected communities across the BAY states to increase their food crop production. FAO established a crop inputs support programme in the North East, targeting the rainy and dry seasons. The programme includes the provision of agricultural inputs, such as seed, fertilizer, equipment, coupled with training, to enable beneficiaries to produce and meet immediate food needs, as well as sell surplus to generate income. The supported households produce enough for at least eight months during the rainy season, while the World Food Programme (WFP) covers their food needs until the crucial harvest in September to reduce the negative coping strategies of consuming seeds as food and selling food for survival. FAO's seed support offers affected households' access to certified, early maturing, high-yielding and drought-tolerant seeds to boost yields and enhance food security and nutrition. FAO's programme also supports seed multiplication, post-harvest management, including the establishment of storage facilities, and vegetable and fruit production.

Restoring livestock-based livelihoods

Prior to the insurgency, close to 80 percent of Borno's residents and the North East at large farmed or reared livestock as their main source of food and income. Now, these residents rely almost exclusively on food assistance. FAO is supporting conflict-affected households to restore their li-

livelihood assets through the provision of animal restocking, fodder, vaccinations and drugs to enable the recovery of affected households in the North East. As part of a large-scale livestock campaign, FAO is targeting internally displaced women, residents of host communities and women who have recently returned to their original communities for livestock production support.

Opportunities for income, jobs and livelihood diversification

Low access to capital to restart agricultural production has been a major factor hindering conflict-affected households from resuming their livelihoods in the North East. FAO is supporting group savings and loan associations (GSLAs) to improve access to capital and finance income-generating activities. The armed insurgency in the North East has resulted in the disruption of fishing livelihoods along Lake Chad. FAO has promoted alternative livelihood incomes through aquaculture-based support to affected communities and food-processing techniques, including fish smoking via the use of FTT-Thiaroye processing. Furthermore, the programme has also supported farmer organizations across the BAY states with equipment to process and add value to various agricultural products for income generation.

Climate action and sustainable natural resource management

Climate change has negatively impacted food production in the Sahel and is driving conflict in the North East region. Disputes are arising over scarce resources, such as arable land for crop production, animal grazing and water. The current climatic reality, including poor or erratic rainfall, long dry spells and floods, has led to reduced incomes of households, worsening food insecurity, malnutrition and unemployment, and laying the groundwork for conflict. In northeast Nigeria, FAO is working to strengthen the agricultural response to climate change through promoting a climate-smart agriculture approach in the BAY states. Also, due to conflict, access to fuelwood has been significantly reduced, driven by excessive cutting of trees. To mitigate the impact of the climate change and to support the existing wood fuel supply, FAO is supporting afforestation in the North East. Worst still, the fuelwood scarcity exposes women to various forms of protection risks, including assault, harassment and rape. In response, FAO introduced the safe access to fuel and energy (SAFE) approach through supporting stove production centres and distributing fuel-efficient stoves to the most vulnerable households.

FAO IN NIGERIA: STRENGTHS AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

Capacity to deliver

FAO has over 40 years of full representation in Nigeria, running and expanding its programme from the FAO Abuja Office since 1978, and working directly with government ministries, departments and agencies at federal and state levels. The nature of the FAO programme and its niche and technical expertise strategically has positioned the Organization to be one of the key technical partners for many government institutions, in particular FMARD. The FAO programme, guided by the CPF, continues to provide technical and strategic support to national development programmes and strategies aimed at reducing poverty and improving food security and management of natural resources. As a result of the Boko Haram insurgency, FAO has also been responding to humanitarian needs in the North East region of Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba states), targeting the most vulnerable households affected. In 2016, FAO scaled up its capacities and increased its support to Nigeria with the application of Level 3 protocols, while the North East suboffice in Maiduguri was established in July 2016. FAO is running a country programme portfolio of almost USD 79 million, with a total strength of 90 international and national staff members.

Technical expertise

FAO in Nigeria has a wide range of technical expertise and skills, aimed at supporting long-term sustainable agriculture initiatives, partnering with government agencies, providing technical support and advice to the Government of Nigeria in the development and implementation of agriculture, food and nutrition security-related strategies and policies. FAO is also strengthening institutional capacity for improved data and information systems for policy planning and tracking of the SDGs related to food and agriculture at national and state levels to inform policymakers for appropriate decision-making. FAO implements field programmes where it deploys its technical expertise and global knowledge to help households, communities, the government and partners to prevent and cope with different types of risks and shocks. FAO is using its technical expertise in partnering with government and other relevant implementing partners to address a range of emerging issues, such as climate change and associated disaster risks, protracted crises, degradation of natural resources, food system, among other challenges that are undermining food security and nutrition for most of the Nigerian population. FAO provides technical assistance and policy advice in areas of crop development, livestock,

fisheries, transboundary animal and plant disease and forestry, with emphasis given to institutional capacity building and development of local skills and expertise to ensure sustainability and future local support. While FAO is extensively supporting the government's efforts to end hunger and achieve Nigeria's country development objectives, simultaneously building government capacity at local, national and regional levels to be able to respond to the challenges and thus, reduce conflict-driven factors. The investment of FAO in Nigeria creates a strong foundation for nexus requirements for a lasting solution to short- and long-term needs.

The FAO Representation in Nigeria also draws on specific support from a range of technical hubs as follows:

- FAO Subregional Office for West Africa and FAO Resilience Team for West Africa, based in Dakar
- FAO Regional Office for Africa, based in Accra
- FAO Office of Emergency and Resilience, based in Rome, and
- FAO technical and operational support departments at its headquarters in Rome

Capacity and field presence

FAO in Nigeria has strong operational, procurement and logistics capacities, enabling the effective management and monitoring of a large programme in a fragile context, such as the North East. FAO is virtually active in all states of Nigeria, with a main office in Abuja and field presence through a suboffice in Maiduguri, supporting FAO emergency response to the North East crisis of the BAY states. In addition, FAO has field offices in Yobe and Adamawa states. Overall, FAO currently has active projects in 16 states (Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba, Ondo, Cross River, Kaduna, Niger, Lagos, Kano, Bauchi, Jigawa, Sokoto, Taraba, Gombe) and the FCT of Abuja.

Strategic thinking and partnerships

FAO in Nigeria is strategically positioned as a main agricultural and food security actor; the CPF sets out five clear priority areas that guide FAO partnership and support to the Government of Nigeria. The CPF key programme priorities are aligned with key government policies and strategies geared towards the promotion of agriculture and food security in Nigeria. Key among them is the National Livestock Development Plan 2018–2027, the Presidential Fertilizer Initiative, the Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy 2016–2025 and the Strategic Plan and Roadmap to Achieve Zero Hunger by 2030. Finally, the CPF is also aligned to the Buhari Plan for Rebuilding the North East, especially its clearly defined role for agriculture in the recovery, resolution and rehabilitation of the affected people in northeast Nigeria.

At regional and global levels, the FAO country programme is contributing to the Nigeria–UN Sustainable Development Framework 2018–2022. The SDGs inform the CPF, the Africa Union Agenda 2063, the Malabo Declaration, the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), the Nigeria Nationally Determined Contribution and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Currently, FAO is working with six key federal government ministries and departments. They include the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development; Budget and National Planning; Water Resources (inclusive of the Department of Irrigation; Environment (responsible for forestry and climate change-related issues); Health, Food Safety and Nutrition; and Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

FAO works with Nigeria's Presidential Committee on the North East Initiative, coordinating all humanitarian interventions in collaboration with the following government institutions:

- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) at federal level.
- The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), particularly in the BAY states. SEMA oversees the coordination and provision of life-saving emergency interventions at state level, reporting to the state government and line ministries.
- FAO works in close consultation with the relevant technical ministries at federal and state levels, including the Ministries of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Resettlement, Water Resources and Environment at state level, and the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, and the National Seed Council at federal level.

Since 2015, FAO also supports the Government of Nigeria, along with other partners, such as the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, to lead the adoption of the CH tool for analysing the food and nutrition vulnerability situation in Nigeria. The CH tool is a part of the ECOWAS regional framework for the consensual analysis of acute food insecurity situations and aims to strengthen food security information and analysis across West Africa. Currently, the CH covers 16 northern states and the FCT of Abuja.

In addition, FAO is partnering with other UN agencies, including WFP, UNDP and UN Women. Moreover, FAO co-leads the Food Security Sector (FSS), along with WFP, and coordinates all agriculture and food security interventions for different humanitarian actors across the North East states.

RATIONALE

Populations in Nigeria are increasingly exposed to multiple hazards, including natural hazards and human-induced crises. Some of these crises are protracted and the nation's food system is facing multiple stressors. Thus, despite being considered an agricultural economic country, with a future of potential high growth, Nigeria has not been able to exploit the potential of its agriculture sector and is experiencing food insufficiency and insecurity, as well as increased poverty and youth unemployment. Nigeria has six distinct, diversified agroecological zones. The main agricultural crops cut across the different agroecological zones in the country, including food and cash crops. The sector is largely dominated by rainfed subsistence farming and has experienced declining productivity during the last decade owing to various factors, including climate change, unfavourable policy environment and limited application of appropriate technology, among others. This has had adverse implications on the country's food production and food security. Severe climate variability and extremes further aggravate these challenges, negatively affecting production systems, which has led to reduced crop yields and fishery and livestock productivity across the country. In most cases, this has shifted patterns of agriculture-based livelihoods. In addition, Nigeria faces multiple humanitarian crises triggered by conflict and insecurity. The protracted conflict in the BAY states, the resurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta region, the nationwide communal conflicts involving herders and farming populations (particularly in the Middle Belt and the southern states), the agitations for secession championed by the IPOB in the South East and the increasing incidents of kidnapping for ransom are all manifestations of the growing incidence of conflicts and violence in the country. This has placed Nigeria amongst the countries with highest overall projected conflict risk index (OCHA, 2019a), leaving the government grappling to deal with multiple humanitarian crises that have increased the vulnerability of rural dwellers, placing large numbers of the population in these areas in critical to crisis food insecurity situations.

Decision-makers in Nigeria are therefore facing deep uncertainty and the situation remains unpredictable. The concept of resilience offers a framework for how to improve agricultural production and nutrition, and

strengthen the ability of food systems to withstand shock and continue to develop.

Within this context, FAO recognizes that continuing and adapting its operations to changing circumstances, with an increased focus on risk prevention, risk management and resilience building, is urgently needed in Nigeria. The FAO investments in past decades have significantly contributed to supporting the government in developing and improving the agriculture sector. FAO's technical expertise and niche have strategically positioned the Organization to deliver quality programming and technical advice to the Government of Nigeria. The FAO programme was guided by the CPF in the recent years, and after the spillover of insurgency in northeast Nigeria, FAO scaled up its operation to continue saving the lives of vulnerable communities, addressing humanitarian needs and contributing to efforts of the government to improve and develop the agriculture sector and food security of the Nigerian people. Yet, as the country faces multiple challenges and risks that undermine people's livelihoods and food security, this work requires a collective effort to build a resilient food system with government institutions, policies and interventions that will result in a corresponding reduction of vulnerability and risk.

Nigeria, along other Lake Chad Basin countries, is identified by the UN Secretary General as a pilot country to implement the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. FAO technical expertise and programme investments in the country are strategically positioning FAO as a leading agency to bridge short-term needs to medium- and longer-term programming. Guided by the FAO corporate resilience framework, this Resilience Strategy captures areas of strategic focus to address root causal factors of vulnerability and crisis and strengthen the resilience of households and communities through building a resilient food system, working with institutions that can support and bring together the Nigerian population and promote social cohesion. Building a resilient food system is critical and necessary to achieving immediate outcomes for any sustainable development, stability and peacebuilding programme. As such, the FAO Resilience Strategy for Nigeria 2021–2023 supports solutions for people to adapt and recover their livelihoods, taking into consideration the new realities that are affecting agriculture-based livelihoods.



STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

THEORY OF CHANGE

The ability of households and communities in Nigeria to anticipate, absorb, accommodate to or recover from disasters, crises and conflicts in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner is limited. In addition to conflict and insecurity, several factors contribute to disrupting agriculture-based livelihoods in Nigeria. These factors include unsustainable management and utilization of environmental and natural resources, which have further increased exposures and vulnerabilities of the population to disasters and climate change. The agriculture and food security sectors are facing other structural challenges, including predominance of poor subsistence farming, rainfed farming and declining productivity owing to various factors, such as climate change, unfavourable policy environment, limited access and application of appropriate technologies and soil degradation. Furthermore, the market remains the weakest link in the agricultural value chain. Additionally, investments for increasing productivity in the agriculture sector are challenged by high poverty among smallholder farmers that lack if people do not have access to basic needs through social protection.

This Resilience Strategy is anchored in FAO's corporate resilience framework and aligned to the sustainable agriculture intensification approach – the main approach for implementing SDG 2. In summary, FAO defines

resilience as “the ability to prevent disasters and crises as well as to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover and adapt from them in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner. This includes protecting, restoring and improving food and agricultural systems under threats that impact agriculture, food and nutrition security, and food safety (and related public health)” (FAO, 2017). In a context like Nigeria of protracted crisis, where the security situation remains extremely precarious, it is challenging to achieve SDGs without addressing the immediate humanitarian needs and reducing the impact of protracted crisis on the affected population. In addition to responding to the most immediate needs, the FAO Resilience Strategy for Nigeria 2021–2023 will invest in medium- and long-term interventions through addressing the structural causes of poverty and food insecurity, and by reducing chronic vulnerabilities and risks. Also, this strategy will address issues related to natural hazards and climate-related risks that are triggering local-level conflict over access to natural resources. Wherever possible, FAO's resilience-oriented agriculture-based livelihood interventions will prioritize conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. Peacebuilding and stability are essential to invest in sustainable development and achieve new ways of working, particularly anchored in the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.



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To address these issues, national, state and local government institutions, traditional structures and governance mechanisms need to adopt resilience and development processes that are well informed by the multiple risks that are impacting agriculture, food security and nutrition. In this regard, FAO has identified the following pathways that are necessary for reducing vulnerability and building resilience in Nigeria:

- Agriculture-based livelihoods for the majority of the rural communities in Nigeria are under recurring threat from both natural and human-induced hazards. There is need to strengthen the capacities of the relevant government institutions to build new, resilient food systems to multiple threats, work with balanced institutions that can support and bring together a polarized population and promote social cohesion.
- Establish an early warning system that integrates early action, drawing on FAO's Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) approach, is necessary to inform resilience-oriented agriculture-based programming in a timely manner, and to enhance preparedness and response capacities in a context where natural and human-induced threats reoccur.
- Create linkages to the government's social protection programme and support relevant government institutions to establish a shock-responsive social protection system.
- Strengthen the governance of natural resource management based on contextually informed, conflict-sensitive policies and programming in support of more inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources, thereby addressing localized causes of disputes, tensions and conflicts over natural resources, supporting peacebuilding initiatives and creating balance in accessing resources necessary to maintain resilient agriculture-based livelihoods for a portion of the population.
- Support farmers, pastoralists and the most vulnerable households in accessing social protection, ensuring access to basic needs ultimately promote the economic inclusion of poor farmers in developing diverse skills and obtaining required agricultural assets, inputs and services (extensions, innovations, farm-level disaster risk reduction and climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies, and markets).
- Support livelihood diversification and income, including off-farm work, through the promotion of decent employment for youth and women in agricultural value chains, and create market linkages.
- Safeguard agricultural production and protect agriculture-based livelihoods in times of crisis, thereby supporting crisis-affected people to keep their livelihood assets and build a foundation for longer-term resilience.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships in developing and promoting resilience-enhancing practices and technologies. This includes working with research institutions to promote the adoption of agricultural practices and technologies developed to improve resilience and partnership with the private sector. It also includes working with agricultural input companies to leverage resources that not only train farmers, but also respond to the immediate demand of agricultural products using innovative approaches (such as cash-based transfers) in support of local economic actors and to stimulate the market, while also reducing the time to respond to humanitarian crises.

This Resilience Strategy integrates the above pathways for resilience through four main outcome areas (see [Figure 2](#)). The combined and interlinked interventions aimed to strengthen institutions to prepare and safeguard, enhance governance of natural resources to facilitate inclusive equitable and sustainable access to those natural resources, improve productivity of household livelihoods and food security and nutritional status will ultimately increase the resilience of households and communities to shocks and stresses that impact agriculture, food security and nutrition. The cross-cutting issues informing the strategy, which include gender, youth, protection and nutrition, will be described in detail in the last section of this strategy. FAO will strive to build synergies among these interventions, as well as the other CPF priorities addressing structural constraints and root causes, to pave way for linking medium- to long-term resilience-building and achieving the triple nexus agenda.

FIGURE 2

Overview of the outcomes, outputs and objectives of the FAO Resilience Strategy for Nigeria 2021–2023

OBJECTIVE

Agriculture-based livelihoods of households and communities in Nigeria under recurring threat from both natural hazard-induced disasters and conflict are resilient and enabled to better withstand shocks and thrive.



Promotion of **GENDER, Youth, Protection, and Nutrition** across all outputs.

OUTCOMES, OUTPUTS, ACTIVITIES



OUTCOME (1): National institutions and their entities at federal and state levels, and local communities, have strengthened their governance system for disaster risk reduction, natural resources management and food crisis prevention and management in the agriculture sector.

Agriculture-based livelihoods can only be protected from multiple hazards if adequate disaster risk reduction, natural resource management and food crisis prevention and management governance systems are in place at federal, state and local levels. The Government of Nigeria has recently established the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHDS). The ministry has technical agencies for disaster risk reduction and emergency management, serving as more specialized units working at federal, state and local levels. This includes NEMA at federal level, SEMA at state level and the Local Emergency Management Authority (LEMA) at local level. In addition, FMHDSH has the National Social and Safety-Net Coordinating Office, which is responsible for managing the national safety-net programme at federal level.

Through NEMA, FMHDSH has an existing disaster risk reduction policy framework for Nigeria. The National Disaster Management Framework provides a mechanism that serves as regulatory guidelines for effective and efficient disaster management in Nigeria. FAO works with these agencies at federal and state levels. FAO also works with Nigeria's Presidential Committee on the North East Initiative, coordinating all humanitarian interventions in conflict-affected areas. Building essential and enabling policies, institutional structures, capacities and financing for disaster risk reduction and crisis management must be in place at local, state and federal levels to reduce increasing levels of threats from multiple types of shocks affecting the agriculture sector. It also ensures sustainable and effective interventions for food security, social development, emergency responses, conflict prevention and peacebuilding among different livelihood groups.

It is critical for the relevant government institutions to develop risk-informed systems for the governance of disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, emergency preparedness and food crisis prevention and management at federal and state levels. This will enable peaceful coexistence between different livelihood groups and will contribute to more resilient livelihood systems. Though the Government of Nigeria has the relevant mandated government agencies and policies for disaster risk reduction, the capacities of federal, state and local government institutions are limited, and the functional disaster management institutions at all levels of governance vary between different states. Furthermore, the structures in agricultural policy development and planning, programming and coordination, as well as between ministries, states and other sectors, are complicated with different layers. This creates an environment unfavourable to sustainable agricultural development.

FAO is a key partner of the government for technical advisory services and support in food security and nutrition risk-informed policy development for the agriculture sector. FAO will particularly aim to strengthen and support the government at local, state and federal levels to establish the appropriate policies for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response and sustainable natural resource management in the agriculture sector. The Government of Nigeria has the political will to improve the agriculture sector and has in place policies and strategies to improve and develop the agriculture sector. The following outputs are critical to ensure that the agriculture sector has appropriate governance and policies for disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness, and improved governance for equitable and sustainable access to natural resources. This will contribute to resilient livelihood systems and an improved environment in which internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees can return –particularly in areas of ongoing conflict and insecurity, livelihoods can be rebuilt and improved, and risks and crises in agriculture can be better planned and managed.

OUTPUT 1.1: Capacity of federal and selected state ministry department agencies (MDAs) for gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, food crisis prevention and management in the agriculture sector is strengthened.

Well-designed risk-informed agricultural policies, strong institutions and effective coordination mechanisms between actors in the agriculture sector are essential for resilience building and are critical areas of

focus. Recognizing the role of the relevant government institutions, including FMARD, NEMA, SEMA and LEMA, FAO will actively engage with them to ensure the development of the appropriate governance and policies. FAO will continue to provide technical advisory services and support in risk- and agriculture-related policy development, planning and coordination. This includes the role of FSS cluster coordination. At federal and state levels, the FSS will continue to function with dedicated staff, hold regular coordination meetings and facilitate response planning and monitoring systems. FAO will enhance support to state-level institutions in delivering public goods and services, and in coordinating emergency and resilience interventions. This includes information sharing among the various responsible actors, between state- and national-level institutions, as well as between different economic sectors. FAO will support Nigeria in integrating and harmonizing relevant regional policy frameworks, agreements and approaches, such as the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management in the Sahel and West Africa, NEPAD, CAADP, ECOWAP and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- With leadership from FMARD and ministries in charge of agriculture at state level, strengthen capacities for emergency response coordination mechanisms by applying technical and coordination standards, guidelines, tools, knowledge and good practices, such as supporting the FSS (co-led by FAO and WFP) at national and state levels.
- Policies, programme and legal frameworks on agriculture, food security and nutrition at national and state levels are to reflect the multiple risks faced, and harmonized and implemented to simultaneously address the immediate and underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition.
- Provide technical support to the government in reviewing and developing risk standards and guidelines and adoption of disaster risk reduction, emergency management and resilience planning in agriculture, food security and nutrition sectors.
- Pilot the FAO EWEA approach, inclusive of anticipatory action systems, in states that are under recurring natural and human-induced threats and strengthen capacities and mobilize resources for preparedness, prevention and mitigation.

- Support high-risk state governments to have disaster risk reduction, preparedness and contingency plans for food and agriculture to be activated, operationalized and resourced during the time of emergency.
- Support policy dialogue at national and state levels, and ensure that policies, strategies, programme and legislation translated into effective action through the allocation of financial and human resources.
- Strengthen coordination with UN agencies and NGOs to enhance complementarities, as well as harmonize approaches in understanding risk, planning and programming, in a joint effort to build resilience together.

OUTPUT 1.2: Operational policies, strategies and instruments for sustainable natural resources management at federal, state and local levels, and peacebuilding and coexistence between different livelihood groups, are strengthened.

Access to and control of productive resources, such as arable land, water, pasture, forests and livestock, are foundational to a resilient livelihood. However, access to these resources for sections of the population varies considerably. Nigeria's livestock population is growing, and human population has grown too, to about 200 million – the highest in Africa. The competition for land, feed and water is fierce and is creating an immense environmental challenge. These trends are exacerbated by the consequences of climate change, leading to increasing clashes between farmers and herders. The two groups usually manage to reach a mutual accommodation, but in the past two decades, what used to be a friendly arrangement has become a crisis marked by looting, raids, cattle rustling and killings. The existing local traditional mechanism for reconciliation and mediation between farmers and animal herders is no longer functioning. Within this context, different livelihood groups (especially youth), are more likely to get enticed into insurgency and other bandits' groups. Access to the sustainable management of traditional grazing lands and water rights remains a fundamental challenge to peace and stability. Strengthening governance systems, building trust and ensuring peaceful and equitable access to natural resources are therefore essential. Successfully resolving and mitigating local resource-based conflict can help build trust and confidence, and have a positive impact on agricultural livelihoods, food security and nutrition, as well as on peacebuilding between different livelihood groups.



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STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- Promote policy dialogue among key stakeholders and provide technical support in reviewing existing policies on sustainable natural resources management (land, pasture, water, forest, fishery and climate), and ensure that are contextually informed, conflict sensitive and deliberately trailed to promote peace building and social cohesion.
- Continue to collaborate with other agencies of government, NGOs and the private sector in implementing projects that are conflict sensitive, and address land degradation and desertification through sustainable land management for increased food security and support to communities to adapt to climate change.
- With the Government of Nigeria, support and accelerate the operationalization of the National Livestock Transformation Plan 2019–2028 as a unified strategy framework to address the farmer–herder violence and restore peace.
- Promote gender-responsive community-based forest management practices through the provision of technical advice in programme design, planning and implementation.
- Public awareness and capacity building of relevant MDAs and communities in selected states on sustainable integrated management and use of land, water and forest resources.
- With the Government of Nigeria, help implement the National Forestry Investment Plan, and build capacities of relevant MDAs in designing and implementation of programme to reduce the impact of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Support research and studies to inform government programmes and policies on the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Seek partnerships and engagement with local or specialized peace actors to promote dialogue and trust between groups of resource users through inclusive livelihood interventions and build the capacity of traditional institutions to organize peaceful and equitable access to sustainable management of natural resources and infrastructure.



OUTCOME (2): Agriculture-based livelihood interventions are informed by data, analysis and a well-established early warning system against known and emerging risks and hazard for enhanced food security.

Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable peoples' livelihoods and reducing food insecurity and malnutrition require better informed and evidence-based decision-making processes. Information, risk monitoring and analysis of the impacts of shocks and stresses are essential to ensure that humanitarian and resilience interventions are targeted and effective, and that livelihood protection and strengthening are provided based on specific vulnerabilities and needs. FAO, along with the Government of Nigeria and key partners, including the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, adopted the CH tool for analysing the food and nutrition vulnerability situation in Nigeria. Under the leadership of FMARD, FAO will continue to support the CH and expand it to cover the entire country (as it only covers 17 states and the FCT currently). In addition, FAO will continue to provide detailed information and advice to those involved in emergency and long-term agricultural assistance, including NGOs, governments and donors. This support will result in fewer gaps in delivery, less duplication of efforts and a more effective use of resources. It means that FAO will maintain and strengthen its role as a key source of information, scale up existing efforts of CH and expand its activities to cover additional relevant topics and issues to strengthen early warning systems. The goal is to ensure that risk monitoring, food security information, analysis and coordination mechanisms are used for evidence-based decision-making and strategies to address short- and medium-term needs. FAO will pay particular attention to building the capacities of all involved stakeholders to enable their full participation in the adoption and use of information tools, as well as in the analysis and interpretation of information.

OUTPUT 2.1: State and national capacities to regularly assess, analyse and monitor agriculture and food and nutrition security strengthened.

In the context of crisis, timely and relevant information to inform planning, programme design and response is critical to ensure timely and appropriate response and preparation by government and other humanitarian and development actors. Activities under this output will ensure that decision-makers have access to the latest agriculture, food security and nutrition informa-

tion to design and revise policies, strategies, plans and interventions. FAO will continue to strengthen national capacities for agriculture and food security data collection, analysis and coordination. Among other initiatives, this will primarily be delivered through support to the CH, livestock-related conflict analysis, household food security surveys, livestock and crop disease surveillance, food security and nutrition monitoring, seed and crop assessments and market monitoring. FAO, along with other partners, will continue to support the government to monitor the indicators that support CH analyses and disseminate reports on a regular basis to inform the government and humanitarian actors, as well as other partners, such as donors and development and peacebuilding actors. Within this process, it will build the technical capacity of public institutions to participate in the CH exercise and of national stakeholders to undertake food security analysis and information management. In addition to leading and facilitating the Agriculture Technical Working Group at federal and state levels, FAO, in partnership with international and local actors, will continue to provide the bulk of food security information products to be disseminated by the FSS to its members.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- Collect, analyse and disseminate food security and nutrition information, disaggregated by sex and age, to enable evidence-based decision-making, such as supporting the CH activities, and provide technical backstopping.
- Strengthen the capacity of relevant national and local government in threat identification, monitoring and development of agriculture, food security and nutrition shock-specific early warning information systems – including for natural hazards, climate-related disasters, food chain crises and conflicts – to better inform decision-making, particularly on early action, emergency preparedness and response.
- Produce regular reports, such as crop watch bulletins and agroclimate reports, with climate analysis and recommendations of accessible agricultural practices for farmers to implement.
- Strengthen capacity in data collection and analysis for government, NGO and community-based organization staff.
- Support relevant government institutions to conduct seed system security assessments.

OUTPUT 2.2: National capacities to set up mechanisms to identify and monitor threats, assess risks and vulnerability, measure resilience, and timely early warning system established.

Monitoring, assessment and identification of different threats and risks are key to establishing early warning systems, as well as better understanding the vulnerability of different communities to different types of risks or hazards, and critical for evidence-based risk-informed policy, programmes and investments for agriculture and food security. FAO has technical expertise to support the establishment of early warning systems or strengthen the existing systems, and measure resilience in agriculture-based livelihoods and food security. Through this output, FAO will continue to work with relevant government institutions and partners to set up early warning mechanisms for selected risks, and build the capacity of humanitarian-development-peace partners and partner institutions to measure, monitor and analyse resilience. With these partners, FAO will use a range of quantitative and qualitative tools that complement such efforts, and in addition, arrive at common toolkits applicable for Nigeria.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- Support FMARD and other relevant government institutions in threat identification, monitoring and development of systems, tools and maintenance, as well as ensure accessibility of data and information sources to all key stakeholders.
- Provide technical support to risk assessment and integrated agricultural multi-threat risk analysis with tools and guidelines.
- Build the capacity of relevant government institutions and other partners on vulnerability mapping and analysis to support resilience decision-making.
- Develop standards and tools to guide resilience vulnerability mapping and analysis for the agriculture and food security sectors.
- Promote strategic partnerships in resilience building by creating a network of practitioners and academics engaged in resilience measurement and analysis.



OUTCOME (3): Diversified resilient agriculture-based livelihood systems are promoted and adopted.

Although Nigeria's agriculture sector has high growth potential to contribute to the national economy, it has not been adequately exploited, thus experiencing food insufficiency, insecurity, increased poverty and youth unemployment and underemployment. While there are significant challenges that are beyond the control of farmers in Nigeria, including climate variability – mainly prolonged dry spells, poor rainfall distribution and flooding – and persistent occurrence of crop and livestock pests and diseases, there are also constraints linked to limited knowledge and skills, limited access to agricultural services, quality and improved production inputs or equipment, access to markets and poor infrastructure. This outcome seeks to address the aforementioned constraints by focusing on the adaptive and transformative capacities of households and communities through supporting diversification and alternative livelihoods. Moreover, this outcome seeks to reduce vulnerability and risks, while building skills and knowledge and improving production and productivity along the entire value chain. Also, this outcome is aligned to and anchored in the FAO CPF Priority 3 “support to Nigeria's economic diversification agenda and the promotion of decent employment for youth and women in agricultural value chains”. These efforts are expected to open opportunities for employment and income generation, and increase the availability and quality of food across the country, thereby reducing the food and nutrition gap.

OUTPUT 3.1: Increase access to improved and diversified production inputs, technologies and knowledge to increase agricultural productivity and production in agricultural priority value chains (crops, livestock and fisheries).

FAO will address the challenges and constraints to agricultural production and farm productivity, including access to improved agricultural inputs and technologies, reduction of post-harvest losses and improved access to markets. FAO will address the need to develop knowledge and skills among rural and peri-urban farmers, pastoralists, agropastoralists and fisherfolk, with a specific focus on youth and women, through an empowering approach. The aim is to create sustainable and

complementary linkages between crop, fisheries, livestock and rangeland production sectors. In addressing these challenges, FAO will work with the government to create an enabling environment for farmers and key actors in market access, identify gaps and provide technical assistance in combating issues along the value chain. In this respect, FAO will focus on agribusiness and engage youth and women in agricultural value chain activities.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- Promote the adoption of improved livestock breeds and agro-input supplies, including tools and diversified, climate-smart and adaptive seeds.
- Promote access to appropriate and sustainable production and post-harvest tools, technologies and equipment, as well as related resilient practices for crop, livestock, fisheries and agroforestry production.
- Promote public–private sector initiatives for selected value chain innovations.
- Promote sustainable utilization of natural ecosystems and value chains for selected crops, such as cocoa and palm oil, and ensure increased areas of forest landscape restorations through supporting agroforestry and reforestation.
- Empower youth and women in the agriculture sector to create decent employment and increase their incomes through improved access to appropriate production and value addition technologies, including aquaculture equipment, fish processing and agroprocessing technologies.
- Support farmers' organizations through creation and support to agricultural associations or cooperatives, and assist them in improving their management procedures, performance and linkages with markets, as well as creating linkages with possible financing institutions.
- Develop capacities of government institutions and communities and promote adoption of and knowledge sharing at farm level, on disaster risk reduction, climate-smart agriculture and mitigation good practices and technologies.
- Promote agriculture digitization and the use of information, communication and technology.



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- Promote and expand soil and water conservation and management practices, as well as technologies for improved production, including conservation agriculture, water harvesting and small-scale irrigation.
- Increase knowledge and awareness of communities on the causes and appropriate measures for combating desertification and land degradation, and improving resilience to climate change while promoting sustainable livelihoods, such as extensive grazing management and rangeland regeneration.
- Strengthen partnerships with public and private research institutions to roll out technologies that enhance resilience, food security and nutrition.

OUTPUT 3.2: Access to markets and generation of employment for youth and women in selected risk-informed agricultural value chains increased.

Contributing to improvements to the agriculture sector, food security and nutrition, and supporting and developing risk-informed value chains, including livelihoods on- and off-farm, will enhance the ability of households to adapt to changing environments. Nigeria currently spends billions of US dollars on imported food, including wheat, rice, fish, among many others. Although imports help boost food availability and, in some cases, improve food access because of reduced prices, such imports have negatively affected the local farm and small-scale fish industry and render local farmers poor. The present state of market disorientation is an important issue in Nigeria's agriculture. Across the country, the market remains the weakest link of the agricultural value chain due to its informality, which exposes farmers to exploitation by traders who buy produce at harvest at very low prices, dramatically reducing farmers' profitability. As a result, there is no national market for farm products for effective disposal of farm output, and as a result of the informality of the market, farmers are vulnerable to exploitation by traders. Farmers tend to sell off most of their produce at harvest at very low prices, hence losing value and profits. Policy efforts of the Government of Nigeria to reorganize the national market have not yielded the desired results. FAO will therefore focus on addressing these challenges, working with government and other key stakeholders, to create an enabling environment for market access for farmers and key actors, and

to identify gaps and provide technical assistance in combating problems along the value chain. In this respect, FAO will focus on agripreneurs and engage entrepreneurial youth and women in agricultural value chain activities. FAO will work with the Government of Nigeria in the promotion of employment-intensive and socially-equitable agricultural growth, fostering the rejuvenation of the agriculture sector and economic empowerment of rural and urban youth and women. FAO will assist the government in its effort to develop agricultural trade and markets that will support the growth of the sector, and lead to increased decent rural farm and non-farm employment opportunities.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- Promote policy dialogue with relevant government institutions to create enabling environments, increase market access and generation of employment for youth and women.
- Promote the adoption and support risk-informed agroprocessing, preservation, value addition, packaging and marketing of agricultural, livestock, fisheries and agroforestry products, with an emphasis on low-cost technology solutions.
- Promote sustainable use of natural ecosystems and value chains for selected crops, such as cocoa and oil palm, and ensure increased areas of forest landscape restorations.
- Promote local artisans and blacksmiths in the fabrication of agricultural tools and equipment (hand tools, ox-ploughs, beehives, post-harvest drying and storage structures, livestock shelters, fish smoking and fuel-efficient stoves).
- Promote women's marketing and producer cooperatives, including increased access to GSLAs and other relevant credit facilities.
- Promote innovative approaches, such as cash-based programming, as it has a multiplier effect on the local economy by stimulating the market and supporting local market actors.
- Promote growth and creation of youth-owned or youth-managed agriculture-based enterprises, with the potential to create decent jobs for young women and men.



OUTCOME (4): Food and nutrition security and agriculture-based livelihoods of crisis-affected people are maintained and protected.

When emergency or disasters strike, it's critical to prepare and respond timely and effectively to save lives and livelihoods and reduce the impact of these crises. Agriculture-based emergency response, preparedness, protection and rehabilitation are crucial to ensuring that people do not become irreversibly destitute and dependent on food assistance. Emergency support for agriculture-based livelihoods enable the most affected to rapidly become self-reliant and productive again with dignity. Given the protracted crisis in the BAY states, the extreme loss of livelihood capacity, limited employment opportunities and widespread food insecurity and malnutrition, it is expected that emergency response will continue to be required over the coming years in northeast Nigeria. As such, FAO will continue to provide emergency food security and livelihood support to conflict-affected populations, including IDPs and host communities, in the North East. FAO will ensure it has appropriate preparedness capacities to respond quickly, timely, effectively and at scale to save lives and livelihoods, and reduce the impacts of crises. The support FAO provides under this outcome will enable people to swiftly return to self-sufficiency, while enhancing preparedness to facilitate rapid and efficient response in case of unexpected events. While FAO is providing emergency assistance to conflict-affected people, it will support interventions aimed at restoring their agriculture-based livelihoods. The FAO emergency response programme is part of the CPF priorities and aligned to and integrated with other FAO efforts that build resilience to bridge the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. Emergency food security and livelihood interventions serve as a foundation for enabling the transition to longer-term resilient and sustainable development. FAO's humanitarian support will help address root causes and structural factors if the situation allows IDPs and conflict-affected people to return. FAO's emergency response is linked to the timely provision of food security analysis information, such as the CH of Outcome 2, as well as coordination with other food security and livelihood interventions and responses. Also, interventions under this outcome will include the

provision of social protection, with an aim to promote agriculture-based livelihoods in the context of crisis, in addition to nutrition-sensitive agriculture. This approach will allow for the improvement of food and nutrition security of poor and vulnerable populations against the adverse effects of climate change, conflict and inequality. It will also increase access to economic and livelihoods opportunities, targeting mainly women, and contribute to a reduction in their exposure to protection risks.

OUTPUT 4.1: Agriculture-based livelihoods protected and promoted through increased access to agricultural inputs, nutritious food and social protection.

Access to productive assets remains a major constraint for affected communities in BAY states. FAO will continue to support them across the three states of BAY, enabling them to participate in food production and access other agriculture-based livelihood opportunities. Studies show that social protection can play a critical role in achieving humanitarian objectives when linked to agriculture interventions (FAO, 2015). Instruments – such as the distribution of agricultural inputs (seed, tools, fertilizer and fishing equipment), cash transfers, cash-for-work, support to establish GSLAs and farmer field schools (FFS) – will be prioritized during the rainy and dry seasons. Targeting the most vulnerable people to food insecurity and climate change, social protection will enable beneficiaries to save their lives and livelihoods and improve their nutrition status by responding to immediate food needs, as well as generate income from cash crops. While it will first serve in protecting conflict-affected populations from destitution, the social protection approach also aims at building long-term resilience, as well as the sustainable promotion of livelihoods. For sustainability and institutional alignment to government policies, the intervention will use existing government systems and mechanisms for targeting the most vulnerable, wherever possible. In support of social protection, interventions will be complemented by the promotion of seed multiplication that will enable communities to have access to certified early-maturing, high-yielding and drought-tolerant seed to boost yields, food security and nutrition. Beyond the availability of quality seed, the intervention will be integrated through social protection schemes.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- Emergency response is implemented based on technical guidance, assistance and training on compliance with humanitarian principles and international standards, such as the provision of time-critical agricultural inputs (crop and vegetable seed, tools, fertilizer) during the dry and rainy seasons to the most vulnerable households to food insecurity and climate change.
- Alignment to the government social protection registry for identifying beneficiaries of social protection interventions.
- Assist the government in building a social protection system in support of food security and agriculture.
- Deliver agricultural extension services. FAO will use the FFS approach through which training will be delivered to farmers on farm-level disaster risk reduction and climate-smart agriculture techniques and practices to ensure programme sustainability, community ownership and efficient management of community resources.
- Support nutrition-sensitive agriculture, including micro and backyard gardening, for IDPs, returnees and host communities integrated with nutrition training.
- Support diversified livelihoods and markets in stable, accessible areas with the potential for resilience gains, such as aquaculture kits, fish smoking, agroprocessing, value chain, entrepreneur skills for women and creation of women's associations and saving and lending groups.
- Strengthen and work with producers' organizations for better design, implementation and monitoring of social protection schemes and services.
- Promote and support seed multiplication and conduct seed fairs as a distribution modality to enable beneficiaries to access seed of their preference, engage local traders and seed producers, and link suppliers with consumers.
- Promote and support the reduction of environmental degradation and enhance protection of the conflict-affected populations through initiatives such as the SAFE programme.

OUTPUT 4.2: Emergency livestock-based livelihoods and livestock health services are enhanced.

Prior to the insurgency, close to 80 percent of residents in the North East farm or rear livestock as their main source of food and income. Now, they rely almost exclusively on food assistance. FAO will prioritize emergency animal health services to prevent and contain livestock disease outbreaks, and support conflict-affected households to restore their livelihood assets through the provision of animal restocking, fodder, vaccinations and deworming medication for livestock. This will enable affected households to recover and build resilience when the situation allows. FAO works with community-based animal health workers (CBAHWs) who are trained to deliver basic services in their own communities with supplies received from the Organization. Furthermore, FAO will strengthen the animal health capacity of the country to prevent, detect and respond to transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and priority zoonotic diseases that affect the livelihoods of farmers, as well as prevent the public from zoonosis.

STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES:

- Provide animal restocking (goats, poultry and animal pulls), fodder and cash-plus to protect livestock assets and reduce the possibility of such assets from being prematurely consumed or sold.
- Provide emergency animal health services and vaccination campaign against common animal diseases (brucellosis, CBPP, black quarter, PPR).
- Train CBAHWs and farmers on measures to prevent and control animal diseases, where feasible, and link them with veterinary pharmacies to generate income.
- Conduct regular surveillance at the animal-human-wildlife-environment interface using the One Health approach to enhance early warning of disease threats, especially TADs and zoonoses with spillover potential.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER

Women play a pivotal role in the agriculture sector, supplying 50–70 percent of the labour yet obtain less than 20 percent of agricultural assets (UNDP, 2012). Women’s access to productive resources accounts for only 26.7 percent for chemical inputs, 22.8 percent for extension services, 21.0 percent for credit, 15.8 percent for land ownership and 26 percent for storage facilities, compared with over 70 percent for men (Adenugba and Raji-Mustapha, 2013). While women are heavily involved in various aspects of agriculture, they earn and produce less with limited access to land, inputs, labour and extension services (World Bank Group, 2013). At the time of conflict and insecurity, women bear the cost. According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, in the North East, 7.1 million people required humanitarian assistance: 2.3 million girls, 1.9 million boys, 1.6 million women and 1.3 million men. It is also reported that women and girls have been victims of rape, abduction and sexual trafficking, and conscripted into a broad spectrum of roles, including serving as spies and being forced to carry person-borne explosive devices, while men and boys have been targeted for killings and forced recruitment, and children have been drafted as suicide bombers for Boko Haram. Every six out of ten women and adolescent girls report having experienced one or more forms of gender-based violence. Moreover, the IDP population is mainly composed of woman, elderly and children-headed households. Gender-disaggregated data on women and youth in agriculture and livelihood initiatives is critical for strategic interventions in policy advocacy and programming. Addressing gender disparities, vulnerability and risk-segregated issues and needs in agriculture and food production, and ensuring the protection of vulnerable women, are a core objective of this strategy. Currently, women and men play specific roles in agriculture, food security and nutrition, which must be considered in efforts to build the resilience of their livelihoods. For example, women’s access to land is restricted. According to UN Women’s research in the North East, women obtain land through

renting or through their husbands or male relatives. The Nigeria Land Use Act of 1978 nationalized all land and vested authority in the state governor, who holds it in trust on behalf of all. This leaves access to the most valuable agricultural assets in the hands of a patriarchal system. Agricultural production can be considerably increased by providing equal access to productive resources, services and employment opportunities to both male and female producers, which will in turn have a significant impact on household resilience. FAO’s approach to gender does not address women as “victims of disasters”, but rather as agents of change by strengthening gender-specific capacities. At field level, this strategy will support several actions aimed at addressing gender inequalities, including the different ways in which women and men are affected by multiple hazards. These activities have been mainstreamed in the four outcomes of this strategy.

NUTRITION

Malnutrition in Nigeria will remain a significant challenge without the effective engagement of the agriculture sector. Nigeria bears at least five percent of the global burden of undernutrition and includes more than 14 million malnourished children (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2017a). The national Agricultural Sector Food Security and Nutrition Strategy 2016–2025 has been developed to guide FMARD activities and the wider agriculture sector in Nigeria for improved nutrition. It is expected that the strategy will ensure effective advocacy for mobilizing necessary human, material and financial resources, and encourage sustained commitment to agricultural development for improved nutrition. Since 2015, FAO has been continuously supporting, both technically and financially, the implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions. It has been recognized that addressing malnutrition is indispensable for economic and social development. Nutrition-specific interventions, such as micronutrient supplementation, breastfeeding and immunization – which address the immediate causes of malnutrition (inadequate dietary intake and diseases) – are necessary, but not sufficient for achieving adequate nutrition. Other interventions are therefore crucial for achieving additional reductions.

In particular, nutrition-sensitive interventions in areas such as agriculture, social protection, health, WASH and education are required. Nutrition-sensitive interventions address the underlying causes of malnutrition, including poverty. The agriculture sector especially has a unique role to play because it is the source of food, because it affects the incomes of the majority of the population, because it influences food prices and because it influences women's control over resources, while at the same time, can avail optimal childcare and feeding practices. For this Resilience Strategy, nutrition is both an input to and an outcome of strengthened resilience. Reducing malnutrition is crucial to strengthening resilience as well-nourished individuals are healthier, can work harder and have greater physical reserves. Households that are nutrition secure are thus better able to withstand external shocks. Conversely, households most affected by shocks and threats face the greatest risk of malnutrition. Hence, strengthening resilient agriculture-based livelihoods is essential to efforts that aim to reduce malnutrition. As such, this strategy has nutrition-sensitive interventions embedded across all outputs. At programmatic level, FAO has an important role to play in terms of:

- Enhancing value chains for improved nutrition through the promotion of nutritional value adding processing technologies, prevention of post-harvest losses of nutrients and behavior change of consumers.
- Diversifying household food production and consumption to increase access to nutritious foods, thereby improving the stability of food supply, especially by empowering women.
- Supporting local sourcing of nutritional, traditional food commodities that are culturally acceptable, but have been marginalized.
- Strengthening the capacity of nutrition research and information systems to support evidence-based decision-making.
- Coordinating opportunities for cross-sectoral dialogue to enhance alignment and delivery of activities to maximize the potential of agriculture to influence and lead to positive nutrition outcomes.

YOUTH

Half of Africa's populated country is made up of youth, defined as individuals between 15 and 34 years of age. Unfortunately, as the youth population grows, so does the unemployment rate. The estimated youth unemployment rate in Nigeria is almost 14.2 percent (ILO, 2020). Youth are largely excluded from political, social and economic decision-making, and as a result, have become increasingly disengaged from society. This disillusionment has made them ideal targets for mobilization by Boko Haram and other armed non-state actors, especially in the northern regions. This has led to youth being stigmatized by government, security officials and local communities as the architects of violence. The widespread suspicion of youth only serves to further ostracize them from society and make them more susceptible to being mobilized to undertake violence. The inclusion of young generations is vital to any development initiative and to the growth of any society. There is an enormous, underutilized potential of talent and skills among youth. FAO's experience in supporting government efforts through the Youth Employment in Agriculture Programme will be valuable. The main challenges for rural youth will be unlocked with access to land, initial capital, markets, adequate training and skills opportunities, and better perception of agriculture as a good resort in terms of employment and choice of livelihood. Making agriculture more attractive to youth and creating decent employment opportunities in rural and peri-urban areas could help reduce conflict, increase resilience and reverse rural urban migration. FAO is seeking innovative ways to make the agricultural value chain more attractive to youth, including by embracing modern technologies. The agriculture sector is critical for Nigeria's economy, and young men and women should be trained and provided with opportunities to engage in all aspects of agricultural value chains, be these on- or off-farm. Young people should be trained appropriately for selected entry points along promising value chains. At the same time, any youth-related interventions will be implemented taking into account risk management and with a view to not contributing to increased tensions between communities. This is particularly important given the presence of cattle raiding (which usually involves young men). This Resilience Strategy mainstreams youth-related activities in all outcomes and outputs.

PROTECTION

Nigeria faces multiple humanitarian crises triggered by conflict and insecurity, largely associated with the protracted conflict in the BAY states. The resurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta region, the nationwide intercommunal conflicts involving herders and farming populations (particularly in the Middle Belt and the southern states), the agitations for secession championed by the IPOB in the South East and the increasing incidents of kidnapping for ransom are all manifestations of the growing incidence of conflicts and violence in the country. The prevalence of conflict in all the geopolitical zones is a major human rights and security concern, considering allegations of abuse and violations related to the current situation. Vulnerable returnee migrants, as well as unaccompanied and separated children (boys and girls) who need psychosocial support, are also affected by the situation. The 2016 Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment report concluded that conflict in Nigeria is fueled by many factors. These include political, social and economic exclusion and marginalization of segments of society. Other factors are cultural and ideological, environmental degradation, climate change vulnerability and low levels of human security, compounded by porous borders in West Africa and the Sahel subregion. The humanitarian situation in the North East is characterized as a protracted crisis. The deliberate attacks against civilians, include killings, sexual violence against girls and women, abductions, burning of homes and destruction of schools and targeted use of improvised explosive devices. It is estimated that more than 27 000 civilians have been killed to date. Recruitment and use of children, boys and girls alike, by nonstate armed actors is extensive. Adolescent boys and men face a high risk of forced recruitment by non-state armed groups. Furthermore, access to fuel and energy is a specific protection concern for women and children as they collect firewood in insecure environments, exposing them to attacks and gender-based violence. FAO will continue to provide emergency food security and livelihood support for IDPs and most conflict-affected people in the North East, and ensure safe access to fuel and energy for women through provision of technologies that reduce the demand for fuel and energy. FAO will ensure it has appropriate preparedness capacities to respond quickly, timely, effectively and at scale to save lives and livelihoods, and reduce the impacts of crises. FAO, as a member, will work closely with other members of the Protection Sector Working Group in North East Nigeria to address protection concerns of the affected populations.



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OPERATIONALIZATION

DURATION

This strategy guides FAO's work on resilience in Nigeria for the period 2021 to 2023. This three-year period is necessary to achieve results on the ground, create synergies and overarching sustainable long-term solutions, and enable an environment for peace-building. This strategy will be subject to revision at the end of 2022 to realign with the new CPF and the UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework.

TARGET

This Resilience Strategy will be implemented nationally and at state level in geographical areas where FAO's expertise will have an added value. Through this strategy, FAO will work with government institutions at federal, state and local levels, UN agencies, NGOs and other actors to maximize the impact of enhanced governance capacities for strengthening the resilience of agricultural-based livelihoods.

The vulnerability in Nigeria is driven by a range of factors, creating various profiles of target groups, who will benefit from the activities in this Resilience Strategy through the protection and promotion of agriculture-based livelihoods. Target groups include rural communities affected by different shocks (conflict, flood, drought, climate variability) and displaced people within the conflict-affected areas, such as the North East and North West. In these areas, this strategy will also target host communities, returnees and the urban and peri-urban poor, with particular focus on women-headed households and youth.

The situation in Nigeria is dynamic and drivers contributing to vulnerability are changing. This strategy will apply a flexible targeting approach, responding to the evolving needs of the different target beneficiaries and geographical locations. FAO will target areas identified as high risk and with hazards to agriculture, food security and nutrition. Resources and security situation permitting, this strategy will place specific emphasis on implemen-

ting resilience-oriented activities through partnerships in a range of smaller pilot, geographical areas. This will include, but not be limited, to the geographical zones below:

- North East
- North West
- Middle Belt (Central North)
- South West
- Lagos, Ondo and Cross River (for selected value chain)

In addition, the selection of specific LGAs will be based on levels of vulnerability and prominence of risk factors. These include areas with high populations in CH Phases 3–5, exposure or at risk of natural and human-induced hazards.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING (MEAL)

The MEAL framework will be based on both FAO corporate monitoring processes and tools developed under the Global Network against Food Crises. Number of tools and methodologies will be used to build baselines, undertake midterm and final assessments, and review interventions by measuring their impact. Among others, these include rigorous pre- and post-harvest monitoring, as well as the CH analysis, which will not only serve to define priority areas, but also, will be used as an impact indicator. For measuring and analysing resilience, mixed methods of qualitative and quantitative data collection tools will be used, including the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA). RIMA will be incorporated through a household resilience survey to measure resilience capacity at household level, and to analyse the contribution of various pillars to strengthening the resilience capacities of households and communities over time and provide guidance for future interventions. The cross-cutting issues of gender and youth will be monitored to inform different interventions.

Mid-term and final evaluations will be conducted to review the implementation of the strategy. This will improve decision-making to increase the effectiveness of current and future programming. The evaluation criterion of efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and relevance will be used in

evaluating this strategy at midterm and endterm. FAO will review the impact on beneficiaries as a result of the strategy, how effective the strategy will be in meeting its goals and how sustainable the strategy will be and its relevance as the operating environment is dynamic. Lessons learned and good practices will be further reviewed for possible replications and scale up at the country or regional level. This will include the review and validation of resilience good practices for possible further replication in other parts of the continent. In addition, FAO will expand its collaboration with academic institutions, such as universities and agriculture and climate change research centres. FAO will be collaborating and financing resilience research as well. These collaborations will contribute to inform FAO's interventions and evidence-based advocacy, and enhance the knowledge of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus in conflict-prone environments.

The MEAL framework will emphasize learning by ensuring that the learning agenda and questions are created right from the onset of resilience projects, and the evidence created by monitoring and evaluation activities is used to improve ongoing projects and feed into designing new strategies and programmes.

PARTNERSHIPS

No one institution or agency can comprehend and address all the challenges of increased risk and vulnerability to food insecurity and livelihoods. FAO will therefore need to develop collaborative relationships between women and men, communities, agencies, civil society, the private sector at different levels and government institutions to build resilience. FAO will also coordinate with many partners in various sectors, such as food, nutrition, health, WASH, environment, education, social and child protection and gender, across all layers of society.

FAO will build on collaborations and partnerships with existing emergency and resilience programmes, as well as humanitarian assistance and peace actors, including other UN agencies. Currently, FAO is working with six key federal government ministries and departments. Throughout the implementation of this strategy, FAO will actively participate in and commit

to lead resilience partnerships and coordination fora at national and local levels. As the key UN agency for the promotion of agricultural livelihoods, FAO will play a leading role in building synergies between the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

FAO will actively participate and engage with regional programmes and initiatives, such as ECOWAP, the Nigeria Nationally Determined Contribution and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, to maximize impact and build synergies. Furthermore, FAO will develop partnerships and joint projects with private sectors and smaller groups of actors, and nurture relationships between governments, institutions and the growing private sector in Nigeria. FAO will continue to collaborate and partner with UN agencies, such as WFP, UN Women, UNHCR, ILO and the United Nations Children's Fund, NGOs and local civil society organizations. Furthermore, FAO will partner with academic institutions and national and international research centres to promote and disseminate innovative initiatives that enhance household and community resilience, including the promotion of simple and affordable technologies, drought-resistant and high-yielding crop varieties and digitization in the agriculture sector.

FAO will remain the primary partner for technical advisory services and support risk-informed agricultural policy development. Throughout the implementation of this strategy, FAO will particularly aim to strengthen and support the government (at national and state levels) and community institutions and structures.

ANNEX

RESULT MATRIX AND BUDGET

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES/INTERVENTIONS	INDICATOR(S)	2021	2022	2023
Outcome (1): National institutions and their entities at federal and state levels, and local communities, have strengthened their governance system for disaster risk reduction, natural resources management and food crisis prevention and management in the agriculture sector	<p>Policies addressing agriculture-related risks in place at federal and state levels and are actualized</p> <p>Existence of a national strategy for early warning and emergency response for agriculture is in place</p> <p>Number of states that adopt the national strategy for early warning and emergency response</p>	3 729 971	4 314 467	4 921 637
Output 1.1: Capacity of federal and selected state Ministry Department Agencies (MDAs) for gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, food crisis prevention and management in the agriculture sector is strengthened	<p>Number of federal- and state-level staff trained on agriculture-related risks and emergency management</p> <p>Number of states that have government disaster preparedness and contingency plans for food and agriculture in place</p>	500 000	600 000	650 000
Output 1.2: Operational policies, strategies and instruments for sustainable natural resources management at the federal, state and local levels, and peacebuilding and coexistence between different livelihood groups, are strengthened	<p>Policies on sustainable natural resource management of land, water, forestry and climate change are in place</p> <p>Number of communities with increased awareness and enhanced capacities in management of land, pasture and water use</p>	3 229 971	3 714 467	4 271 637
Outcome (2): Agriculture-based livelihood interventions are informed by data, analysis and a well-established early warning system against known and emerging risks and hazard for enhanced food security	An early warning system on agriculture-related risks and hazards in place at state and LGA levels	1 400 000	2 500 000	3 300 000
Output 2.1: State and national capacities to regularly assess, analyse and monitor agriculture and food and nutrition security strengthened	<p>Number of staff trained on data collection, analysis and reporting on agriculture, food security and nutrition</p> <p>Number of food security, nutrition and early-warning reports produced and disseminated</p>	800 000	1 500 000	1 800 000
Output 2.2: National capacities to set up mechanisms to identify and monitor threats, assess risks and vulnerability, measure resilience, and timely early warning system established	<p>Number of staff trained on vulnerability mapping and analysis to support resilience decision-making</p> <p>Standards and tools to guide resilience/vulnerability mapping and analysis for the agriculture and food and nutrition security in place</p>	600 000	1 000 000	1 500 000

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES/INTERVENTIONS	INDICATOR(S)	2021	2022	2023
Outcome (3): Diversified resilient and inclusive agriculture-based livelihood systems are promoted and adopted	Number of alternative and sustainable livelihood options in agricultural value chains are practiced	14 000 000	17 000 000	20 500 000
Output 3.1: Increase access to improved and diversified production inputs, technologies and knowledge to increase agricultural productivity and production in agricultural priority value chains (crops, livestock, and fisheries)	Percentage increase in households with access to improved agriculture technologies Percentage increase in households reporting increase in production	9 000 000	11 000 000	13 500 000
Output 3.2: Access to markets and generation of employment for youth and women in selected risk-informed agricultural value chains increased	Number of households (women and youth) directly benefiting from improved value chains and market linkages Number of households with increased access to markets Number of households employed in agricultural value chains	5 000 000	6 000 000	7 000 000
Outcome (4): Food and nutrition security and agriculture-based livelihood of crisis-affected population are improved and protected	Decrease in number of food-insecure people	16 000 000	18 500 000	21 700 000
Output 4.1: Agricultural-based livelihoods protected and promoted through increased access to agricultural inputs, nutritious food and social protection	Number of vulnerable households provided with livelihood support annually Number of vulnerable households supported to protect livelihoods through social protection	11 000 000	12 500 000	14 700 000
Output 4.2: Emergency livestock-based livelihoods and livestock health services are enhanced	Number of livestock vaccinated and treated annually	5 000 000	6 000 000	7 000 000
Total indicative budget		35 129 971	42 314 467	47 121 637

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