
Update on collaboration among the Rome-based agencies

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Action: The Executive Board is invited to review the update on collaboration among Rome-based agencies.

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I. Introduction

A. Purpose and scope

1. As part of the Rome-based agencies' (RBAs) reporting on their collaborative activities, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) have jointly prepared this 2022–2023 progress report. The report showcases how the RBAs have worked together through the reporting period, highlighting several examples of concrete achievements arising from collaboration across global, regional, country, and programmatic levels.
2. The report builds on the strategic realignment of RBA collaboration, which has been spearheaded by the three RBA principals and is reflected in the new global tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU). Within the context of the United Nations development system (UNDS) reforms and focusing on the RBA collective offer on the potential impact for the beneficiaries that are served, the three RBAs will continue to invest in opportunities that leverage their respective comparative advantages, when appropriate and efficient.
3. Section I discusses the evolving role and collaborations of the RBAs in tackling food insecurity and transforming agrifood systems in view of the present-day challenges shaping the world. Section II offers a selection of in-depth examples of coordination efforts implemented at the global, regional and country levels. Finally, section III highlights a pathway forward for RBA collaboration, within the current global context and building from the updated MoU.

B Overview of collaboration 2022–2023

4. According to the 2023's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, new estimates indicate global hunger remained relatively unchanged from 2021 to 2022. However, hunger remains far above pre-coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)-pandemic levels and far off track from achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2. The intensification of the major drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition – conflict, climate variability and extremes, economic contraction, and growing inequality – often occurring in combination, is challenging our efforts to achieve the SDGs. The impact of these drivers is uneven among regions, countries, and even among neighbouring communities.
5. Against this backdrop and with the new mandates for the principals of the RBAs, the three agencies have recommitted to the alignment of their strategic priorities in the recently signed global tripartite MoU. Building from the findings of the “Joint Evaluation of collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies,” the MoU is grounded in the reforms of the UNDS and recognizes that RBA collaboration is built on a broad spectrum of work that spans from responding to emergencies and shocks, to humanitarian and longer-term development activities. It acknowledges that a systemic and holistic agrifood systems approach, with multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovative investments, is needed to address the complex development challenges and crises that countries face.
6. At the global level, the RBAs continue to work together in high-level political forums. They have developed joint and complementary messaging which serves to raise awareness of global food security crisis and draw attention to the challenges faced in achieving food security and nutrition in the context of the SDGs. They further coordinate to ensure the implementation of their commitments.
7. The successful execution of the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 (UNFSS+2), supported by the RBAs, provided a platform for countries to share their food systems journeys and highlighted the importance of accelerating progress, in particular on access to financing,

emphasizing the urgent need for debt relief and increased liquidity for developing countries facing crises.

8. The RBAs joint support to India's G20 Presidency, with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, fed directly into the G20 Deccan High Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition¹. Demonstrating the G20 collective responsibility in reinforcing and complementing efforts across geographies, the Deccan Principles acknowledge and commit to reinforcing global efforts to enhance food security and nutrition and advance the agreed outcomes of current and past G20 agriculture ministers' meetings.
9. At the regional and country levels, the RBAs have been working to reposition their strategies and enhance their effectiveness in the areas of agrifood systems, nutrition, gender equality and women's empowerment, resilience building, youth, and climate change, environment and biodiversity. The operations of the individual RBAs in-country are based on their respective mutually complementary and distinct mandates which often require them to engage with different stakeholders, including ministries covering a variety of (sub-)sectors. Individual RBA operations are also often located in geographically distinct zones, addressing a diverse set of contexts and stakeholders. Despite their unique footprints, the RBAs have resolved to identify operational commonalities and administrative synergies. In order to raise awareness of the complex situations that countries face, the RBA principals visited South Sudan, highlighting how the intertwined crises of climate, economic, and conflict can devastate a nations' full potential. The RBAs are developing a joint project proposal to support the South Sudanese Government to build resilience to future shocks.
10. The RBAs continue to build on and replicate successful cases of collaboration, such as the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RBAs + the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), the Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture, and the Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C). The RBAs are exploring potential opportunities to partner in fragile and conflict-affected states, identifying and strengthening linkages between RBA projects focusing on local production and home-grown school feeding.
11. The RBA Senior Consultative Group (SCG) coordinates regularly to provide strategic oversight and guidance on inter-agency collaboration. With the overarching mandate to review implementation of joint activities and address strategic, operational and policy issues, the SCG considered a broad range of issues, including the SD3C programme and the Global Network Against Food Crises, finalizing the global tripartite MoU, and leveraging the UNFSS+2 for increased RBA collaboration in agrifood systems transformation at the country level.

II. Highlights of RBA collaborative activities 2022–2023

12. As the three agencies most directly responsible for supporting countries in transforming agrifood systems and achieving zero hunger, RBA collaboration continues at all levels, and across thematic areas, with a steadfast focus on results, ensuring sustained exchange of technical knowledge, lessons learned, and good practices.
13. In this section, we highlight specific areas of collaboration through in-depth examples. These include a summary of the RBAs' roles in the United Nations Food Systems Summit follow-up; recent developments in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS); collaboration on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in Pakistan; updates on the global Food Security Cluster (FSC), the Global Network Against Food Crises, and the SD3C initiative in West Africa; an introduction to the new programme under the Global Environment Facility; a summary of collaboration in innovation; and, offer case studies on RBA collaboration in South–South and

¹ The 2023 Deccan High Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition are: i) facilitate humanitarian assistance to countries and populations in vulnerable situations; ii) enhance availability and access to nutritious food and strengthen food safety nets; iii) strengthen policies and collaborative actions for climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems; iv) strengthen resilience and inclusivity in agriculture and food value chains; v) promote the one health approach; vi) accelerate innovation and the use of digital technology; and vii) scale up responsible public and private investments in agriculture.

triangular cooperation (SSTC), the five-year Kenya country-level collaboration agreement between the RBAs, and joint programming in Pakistan.

RBA collaboration at the United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment

Background

The 2021 Food Systems Summit established clear and ambitious goals for food systems that reflect complex relationships between the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development. Member states agreed to support government-led national mechanisms that develop and implement national pathways to achieve the SDGs. The United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, in partnership with the RBAs and wider United Nations system, plays a pivotal role in advancing the objectives set forth by the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit to transform global food systems in support of the SDGs.

Preparation for the UNFSS+2

The five regional preparatory meetings preceding the UNFSS+2 brought together national convenors from each region to exchange insights and lessons learned since the 2021 Summit, while shaping regional priorities and actions ahead of the UNFSS+2. Notably, the Latin America and the Caribbean meeting showcased a strong collaborative model involving a regional United Nations task force led by FAO, IFAD, WFP, and other agencies, with potential to serve as a blueprint for future collaborations.

Programme planning for the UNFSS+2

To organize the UNFSS+2 and each of its components, a programme committee was established to support the design of session, ensuring a balanced distribution of responsibilities among the participating organizations. This collaboration facilitated coordination among representatives from the RBAs, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Government of Italy, and the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. This collaborative planning yielded distinct ownership of each session, with principal lead agencies and co-leads, and fostered high-quality sessions with active participation from directors and senior staff.

Lessons learned and moving forward

The UNFSS+2 highlighted valuable insights for future collaborations, including the value of considering RBA collaboration as part of the overall approach, rather than seeking to create a specific “RBA” element. This informs collaboration across all levels, ensuring comprehensive involvement and contribution. Communication among teams is vital: a cohesive messaging strategy for RBA leadership, supported by event-related content on each agency’s social media channel, was developed to feed into the event’s branding. The UNFSS+2 best practices will inform cooperative efforts among RBAs.

Committee on World Food Security

The CFS serves as an inclusive intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform that facilitates concrete discussion and actions in support of country-led efforts to implement the food security and nutrition (FSN) elements of the SDGs.

FAO, IFAD and WFP continue their collaboration within CFS, while supporting the Committee and contributing to its strategic direction through engagement in the Bureau and Advisory Group meetings and thematic workstreams. The RBAs host and sponsor the CFS Secretariat and provide technical expertise in support of CFS FSN-related thematic areas.

As a result of the RBAs collective engagement within the CFS, they played an instrumental role in providing vital technical support during the negotiations for the approval of two pivotal documents: the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition, and the Policy Recommendations on Strengthening Collection and Use of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Data and Related Analysis Tools to Improve Decision-Making in Support of the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of

National Food Security. Notably, both of these documents received approval during the CFS 51 session, underscoring the significance of their collaborative efforts.

Global Food Security Cluster

Background

The FSC coordinates humanitarian responses focused on food availability, access, utilization, and stability. The FSC is an extensive network of international, national, and local partner organizations across 34 operations in 30 countries, ensuring effective and timely food security interventions. The global FSC support team, led by co-coordinators from cluster lead agencies (WFP and FAO), coordinates with other global clusters, and provides guidance to country clusters and sectors through remote assistance and surge missions. The FSC maintains accountability to partners through the Strategic Advisory Group, which contributes to working groups and high-level advocacy forums. Additionally, the FSC offers technical, strategic, and operational support to empower national-level FSCs in fulfilling [their six core functions](#) and being accountable to affected populations.

Results

The FSC has faced unprecedented challenges as the global food security landscape has shifted significantly, with hunger levels surging to record highs and increased demand for assistance often surpassing available resources.

In 2022, the FSC reached over 155 million people with food and livelihood assistance, a 40 percent increase from 2021. Over 127 million people received food aid (in-kind: 70 percent, cash/vouchers: 30 percent), and 37 million people received emergency agricultural, livestock, and non-agricultural support. Food security funding requirements reached a record high of USD 18 billion, out of the 2022 Global Humanitarian Overview total of USD 51.7 billion. While financial contributions rose from USD 6 to nearly USD 10 billion, food security operations were funded at only 50 percent. In the first half of 2023, FSC partners reported assisting over 105 million people (out of 152 million targeted) with food and livelihood support in 28 countries, with USD 3.5 billion received against funding requirements of USD 18.1 billion (19.4 percent funded).

The global FSC information management team introduced new tools to ensure transparent access to food security interventions including a needs-based gap analysis tool that assesses food/cash distribution quantities and frequencies. This was used in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) and [Mozambique](#). FSC teams are also adopting planning tools for better field coordination and advocating underserved areas. Globally, a data warehouse for trend analysis and response reporting has been established, resulting in an [interactive dashboard](#) providing comprehensive FSC response information worldwide.

Global Network Against Food Crises

Background

The Global Network Against Food Crises is an alliance of humanitarian and development actors united by the commitment to tackle the root causes of food crises and promote sustainable solutions through shared analysis and knowledge, strengthened coordination in evidence-based responses and collective efforts across the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. The European Union, WFP and FAO are the original founders, while the United States of America and the World Bank have recently joined as core members. IFAD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have submitted requests for membership and will begin to work with the Global Network at a technical level in 2023.

Global Network Against Food Crises and RBA collaboration

Considering the worsening global food crisis and the collaborative system-wide response it requires, the Global Network is quickly becoming the key RBA platform for sustainably addressing – and

ultimately reducing and preventing – food crises and famine. Partners contribute to efforts to strengthen evidence for collective decision-making and for promoting coherence and common approaches at the global, regional and country levels. Issues relating to food systems and value-chains potential in fragile contexts, famine prevention and root causes of hunger, protracted displacement and food security, and shock-responsive social protection and food security are key thematic areas to be collectively considered in the next period.

2023 results

- **Reports and evidence:** The Global Network has produced knowledge products through its collaboration with the Food Security Information Network, including the Global Report on Food Crises, the Hunger Hotspots Report and the Financial Flows and Food Crises Report. The Global Network has also produced tailored reports and analysis on specific country and regional contexts and priority issue areas.
- **Strategic dialogues:** In 2023, dialogues were organized on the implications of the findings of the Financial Flows and Food Crises Report, global and regional launches of the Global Report on Food Crises, discussions with policy makers in New York on global food insecurity and famine risk, side events at the Economic and Social Council Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the European Humanitarian Forum, and a closed-door dialogue on food crises at the United Nations General Assembly.
- **Country engagement:** Working closely with regional bodies in East Africa (the Intergovernmental Authority on Development) and West Africa (the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States), the Global Network has supported national governments and Food Systems Summit convenors, and humanitarian and development partners to develop collective humanitarian–development–peace nexus approaches to implement their national pathways.
- **Famine prevention:** Famine prevention is a top priority for the Global Network and its members. They work closely with the United Nations Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator and the reconstituted High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine to promote a system-wide response in critical contexts. Evidence related to food insecurity, financial flows, and famine drivers informs these discussions.
- **Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus Coalition:** The Coalition plays a vital role in connecting with national convenors and facilitating system-wide engagement at the country and regional levels. Its strong representation of affected states, including co-leadership by the G7+, ensures that essential perspectives are integrated into Global Network dialogues on food crises.

Lessons learned and corresponding strategic priorities

The successes and challenges faced by the Global Network in 2023 inform the strategic direction going forward. Key priorities include:

- The Global Network will strategically deploy its diverse and expanding membership across humanitarian, development, and peace domains, aligning their contributions with their specific value-add. While increasing membership requests will ensure the representation of key operational agencies in food crises, expanding the donor base will be essential for the Global Network to become the primary platform for a unified vision.
- The Global Network will deepen its engagement with existing partnerships and platforms in the food crisis landscape, fostering collective action while expanding efforts at the country and regional levels. Its unique impact will lie in its capacity to provide support at all levels, positioning it as the primary platform among RBAs.
- The Global Network's knowledge products will play a vital role in promoting a collective strategic approach to addressing food crises and famine while addressing policy gaps at the global level. Efforts to facilitate analysis discussions and inform decision-making will be expanded in collaboration with members and relevant networks. Additionally, improving the coherence and clarity of food security data presentation will be a priority.

Update on the SD3C programme, an example of IFAD financing enabling RBA regional collaboration

Background

In an effort to support strong regional coordination, the SD3C programme (the Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change) was approved by IFAD's Executive Board in 2020 with a total cost of USD 180.4 million. It aims to consolidate the livelihoods of 123,000 rural households (854,750 individuals), 50 percent of whom are women and 40 percent young people, particularly those living in the targeted cross-border areas of the region. IFAD leads the initiative, providing overall coordination, financial management, and technical support through anchor investment projects in each participating country. FAO and WFP are implementing partners in their respective areas of expertise, thus making for a programme that seeks to bridge the humanitarian–development nexus through RBA synergies.

Financed by IFAD11, country allocations (USD 53.2 million in total) were made to Burkina Faso (USD 6 million), Chad (USD5 million), Mali (USD 23.7 million), Niger (USD 10 million), and Senegal (USD6.5 million). Additionally, IFAD provided a USD 2 million regional grant to the G5 Sahel Secretariat, and Mauritania was allocated USD 5 million from IFAD12. The programme has received supplementary funds from the Netherlands (USD 13.2 million) and Italy (USD 1.9 million for Mauritania). The current funding gap is USD107.1 million.

Results

As of August 2023, SD3C had reached 2,780 households (38 percent of the mid-term target) with programme services. It has brought to fore opportunities to enhance integration, and improve collaboration, including in fragile contexts.

In April 2024 or earlier, the mid-term review will present an opportunity to engage donors and partners in fulfilling the original objectives of SD3C, by revisiting some of its implementation modalities. The latter feature Unilateral Trust Fund agreements with the RBAs that have proven to be suboptimal for the smooth implementation of the programme. More flexibility would be desirable, which hinges, inter alia, on the availability of increased amounts of grant funding. IFAD has hired a senior resource mobilization consultant to support this. Looking ahead, priorities include redefining the RBA operational approach in the evolving Sahel context, clarifying resource contributions from WFP and FAO for SD3C's phase II, potentially hosting a side-event on SD3C at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2023, and organizing a donor round table in early 2024.

Global Environment Facility's Food Systems Integrated Programme

FAO and IFAD are co-leading the USD 260 million GEF-8 Food Systems Integrated Programme of the Global Environment Facility dedicated to the transformation of global food systems, making them sustainable, regenerative, nature-positive, resilient, inclusive, and pollution-free.

FAO and IFAD are the two Global Environment Facility agencies with the mandate to provide global leadership on food systems issues, spanning all target sectors of the Food Systems Integrated Programme (agriculture, livestock and aquaculture), enabling them to apply an inclusive "whole food system" approach. Their co-leadership of the Food Systems Integrated Programme will be supported by partners including UNDP, the World Bank, The Nature Conservancy, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and regional development banks. Potential for WFP to leverage its large operational footprint and capacity in food systems transformation is being explored.

FAO is acting as the designated lead of the Food Systems Integrated Programme and will ensure overall programmatic coordination, coherence, and accountability to the Global Environment Facility Secretariat. The two agencies will be joint members of the governance mechanisms of the Integrated Programme/Global Coordination Project, and they will assume the chair of the Project Steering Committee on an alternating basis. The approach includes the establishment of an innovation and knowledge hub, an innovative policy hub, and a finance hub, to support 32 countries to transform their agrifood systems and to deliver global environmental and climate benefits.

Innovation and the RBAs

Background

In line with the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change, innovation is at the heart of RBAs institutional strategies to address the complex challenges facing global agriculture, food security, and rural development. The RBAs have each established teams focused on innovation, and areas of collaboration have included: a joint RBA innovation working group, experience and knowledge sharing exchanges, and technical inputs to each others' discussions and processes.

The three agencies approach innovation from a unique entry point: FAO places a strong emphasis on innovation, encompassing technical, procedural, and administrative aspects. IFAD's innovation strategy focuses on creating sustainable and inclusive solutions for rural development. The WFP Innovation Accelerator identifies, supports, and scales solutions to end hunger and advance the broader SDGs.

These unique focuses allow the agencies to engage individually, as two or as three RBAs. For example, WFP has hosted both FAO and IFAD colleagues at the WFP Innovation Accelerator, which has assisted in exploring synergies and expanding collaboration. IFAD Innovation partnered with the FAO Office of Innovation to select winning ideas for the FAO Innovation Fund. "Artificial Intelligence for Climate Resilience in Rural Areas" Innovation Challenge (August 2023): IFAD, the Asian Development Bank and other financial institutions, and the WFP Innovation Accelerator are running a joint innovation challenge to identify and support scalable solutions.

Innovation will continue to be an important area of focus for the RBAs, including identifying scalable opportunities developed through their respective operations.

Update on RBA collaboration on South–South and triangular cooperation

Background

Partnerships for SSTC are included in the framework of the RBA joint road map. In the past year, this has expanded to focus on home-grown school feeding and increasing joint engagement at the country level for SSTC.

Results:

- **Home-grown school feeding**

The RBAs collaborated with their country offices to identify areas of demand, and craft tailored proposals for the countries in this pilot – Kenya, Senegal and Rwanda. This is supported by active resource mobilization, with sustainable resourcing pipelines a challenge to secure. Partnerships to address this have been fostered, including with the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition, and advocacy opportunities have been identified, including donor and government representatives, including at the Global South–South Development Expo in Thailand.

- **Country-level collaboration**

From 2019 to 2022, with funding from IFAD, the RBAs jointly implemented the local production of fortified cassava flour project in Bouenza Department in the Republic of the Congo. A key aspect of this project was the work done to strengthen the role of local smallholders in the cassava supply chain, in partnership with the African Centre for Development and Research and the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences among others. The project also supported the development of food safety standards and testing processes for cassava-derived products.

- **Country-level collaboration**

In Cuba, with the support of an IFAD grant that is to reach at least 2,000 farmers and producers, WFP is improving access to social protection programmes in order to support nutritious diets, access to markets and economic empowerment in the Gibara municipality.

Included in this grant are two study tours and knowledge-sharing activities to Brazil and China aimed at facilitating peer-to-peer learning on resilient production practices.

The way forward²

After four years of its implementation, the RBAs plan to conduct a comprehensive assessment of their joint road map on SSTC. They will identify lessons learned, best practices, and challenges faced over the period, and use this evaluation to revise and update it.

2023 will also see the RBAs celebrate their annual United Nations Day for South–South cooperation outside of Rome for the first time. To this end, IFAD, which is leading coordination of the event, has been in discussions with the Rwanda Cooperation, which manages and mainstreams Rwanda's South–South cooperation activities. The agencies plan to invite stakeholders and partners from Rwanda in particular and the East and Southern Africa Region as a whole to deliberate on the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and institutional strengthening in enhancing the effectiveness of SSTC.

Collaboration with FAO's Investment Centre

The FAO Investment Centre serves as a crucial entity in the collaboration between IFAD and FAO, supporting the development and execution of IFAD-funded projects. By addressing a range of agricultural challenges such as market access, inclusive value chains, youth employment, and climate-smart practices, the CFI has played a pivotal role in project identification, design, appraisal, and supervision. The CFI has provided technical assistance as well as sizable budgetary resources to the design of almost 400 IFAD-funded projects for a total value of more than USD16 billion. Through the use of CFI specialists, country teams have accessed better contacts, stronger cooperation and information exchanges with the FAO country offices. With a strengthened partnership following a recent cooperation agreement, IFAD and FAO are amplifying their impact. The CFI's accomplishments include designing ten projects totalling USD 605 million in 2021, organizing knowledge-sharing events, aiding in the digital transformation of IFAD's portfolio, and supporting projects across different regions. Notably, in Cameroon, the CFI fosters aquaculture entrepreneurship and private sector collaboration. Through their joint efforts, FAO and IFAD are advancing climate resilience and sustainable agriculture, epitomizing their commitment to transformative agricultural development.

² EB representatives are kindly advised that this document contains information as at 1 September 2023.

RBA strengthened commitment in Kenya

Background

From 2015–2022, the RBAs, together with the European Union and the Government of Kenya, were part of a partnership on the Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme–Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Window. The Programme bridged the humanitarian development divide in Kenya and paved the way for resilience building, livelihood transformation and economic growth at scale. Recognizing the achievements of their partnership and the potential for greater impact at scale, in March 2022 the RBAs signed an agreement to expand the scope of their work through the RBA Kenya Country-level Collaboration Agreement (KCCA).

Results

The KCCA is a five-year agreement inspired by a common vision that achieving food and nutritional security, resilience and sustainable agrifood systems requires comprehensive and holistic approaches. It provides a framework that facilitates close collaboration between the RBAs, and identifies concrete actions across areas of common interest, including in policy, programme and operations, and on cross-cutting themes. Under the KCCA, there has been successful collaboration with regard to programming jointly from design through to implementation. Initiatives that have required collaborative action such as the planning, execution, and follow-up of the “Food Systems Summit Dialogues” have also demonstrated very effective practices in collaboration between the RBAs.

Challenges, enablers and lessons learned

One of the key enablers is the commitment by the leadership of the three agencies, which provides a good enabling environment for the technical teams to engage and to develop joint programmes.

Challenges still exist around overlaps in implementation. However, these challenges can be overcome by ensuring that the RBAs collaborate from the inception of joint programme concepts all the way through to implementation and reporting.

RBA collaboration in Pakistan

As an example of collaboration that is ongoing in many countries, FAO and WFP have jointly facilitated the IPC acute food insecurity analyses in Pakistan almost every year since 2012. Relevant federal and provincial ministries/departments contribute to these analyses, with inputs from United Nations organizations (FAO, WFP, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization) as well as national and international non-governmental organizations. The most recent acute food insecurity analysis was conducted for 43 vulnerable/flood affected districts in three provinces in April 2023. In addition, IPC acute malnutrition analyses have been conducted jointly by FAO, WFP, and UNICEF on an ad-hoc basis, with the most recent acute malnutrition analysis conducted in June 2017 for 32 vulnerable/flood affected districts across three provinces.

In terms of collaboration in programming, IFAD is funding a USD 75.8 million project (IFAD loan: USD 60.1 million, IFAD Grant: USD 3 million, Government of Pakistan: USD 8.6 million, Saudi Fund for Development: USD 3 million, beneficiaries: USD 0.99 million) to the Government of Pakistan for GLLSP Phase 2. The six-year project runs from 2021 to 2027, aiming to increase incomes and livelihoods of 100,000 rural households cover 400 villages in Gwadar and Lasbela districts. Necessary socioeconomic infrastructure will be financed both for agricultural and fishing communities including community infrastructure, roads to markets, jetties and landing sites. Ultra-poor and poor households, women and youth will be supported to increase their incomes through the provision of productive assets and employment/self-employment skills training and job market preparation. Small fisherfolk will benefit from upgraded and inclusive value chain development under a 4P (public-private-producer partnerships) approach. IFAD is responsible for overall project supervision and providing implementation support in the relevant areas of the project, ensuring milestones associated with the implementation are met and the project’s development objectives are achieved.

FAO and WFP have partnered with IFAD and GLLSP-II to provide specific technical assistance support financed through IFAD’s grant of USD 3 million. WFP provides technical support to improve

nutrition at the household level and FAO for on-farm climate change resilience, with additional resources contributed by both agencies. WFP is focusing on enhancing the nutrition of women and children in 8,500 ultra-poor and poor households through dedicated training modules for a training of trainers programme, nutrition packages and nutrition monitoring systems. FAO is providing technical assistance for a training of trainers programme and in-situ demonstrations for 30,000 smallholder farmers to introduce adapted crop choices and agronomic practices to enhance climate resilience.

Another example of the RBAs leveraging their comparative advantage in programme collaboration is a joint FAO/WFP USAID-funded project with a budget of USD 4 million, entitled “Revival of livelihood, food security and nutrition of the flood-affected population in Sindh”. FAO is implementing half of the project supporting the recovery of livestock farming from flood damage in Shaheed Benazirabad district of Sindh province in 2022, and WFP is leading the other half of the project focused on the diversification of livelihoods and ensuring household-level food security and nutrition in that same district.

III. The path forward

14. In the face of converging crises including climate change and conflicts, it is urgent to reshape agrifood systems, sustainably and equitably. The RBAs existing partnership enables FAO, IFAD, and WFP to complement each other's mandates and frameworks, offering the potential to transform agrifood systems and to boost food security and nutrition, and resilience.
15. The RBAs have reaffirmed their commitment to collaboration through the new MoU, which provides a strategic reset and a guide for future collaboration. Innovative partnerships will remain a priority, involving South–South and triangular cooperation, other United Nations agencies, financial institutions, the private sector, and relevant international organizations.
16. The RBAs are committed to responding effectively to the global challenges. Their focus will be on setting programming priorities, scaling interventions, and improving efficiency and effectiveness in the six key areas under the MoU. Building from the recent [UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment](#), the RBAs will jointly advocate systemic solutions to economic, climate, food security and nutrition issues, and raise awareness of potential systemic solutions to these issues. At the regional and country levels, they will continue to engage and align with the UNDS, United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks and regional collaborative platforms, as recommended by the joint evaluation of RBA collaboration. They will seek to build on and replicate successful cases of collaboration, such as those outlined in this paper. In complement to the broader RBA efforts, IFAD and WFP have identified climate change, school feeding and fragile settings as priorities in their bilateral collaboration. The current global hunger crisis and the challenging financial constraints facing international organizations make it even more important that the RBAs work strategically, efficiently, and collaboratively in the coming years in order to transform agrifood systems, achieve widespread impact, and support countries in the realization of the SDGs, including SDG 2, leaving no one behind.

ANNEX

Countries	IFAD financed anchor project managed activities	FAO activities	WFP activities
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two service providers recruited to provide technical support to 360 beneficiaries and their micro-projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2,174 households (particularly for women heads of households and young people) benefited from cash transfers ➤ Construction of seven pastoral boreholes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Productive asset creation activities through the food assistance for assets (FFA) approach for 38,184 households resulting in agricultural half-moons, 11,337 metres of stone bunds and the rehabilitation of 5,385 km of rural tracks
Burkina Faso		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 170 livelihood restoration kits distributed ➤ Establishment of 26 agro-pastoral farmer field schools and 13 Dimitra clubs¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restoration and protection of 1,173 ha using soil defence and restoration techniques ➤ 82 home visits on barrier measures to fight against COVID-19 for 1,012 people ➤ 83 gardens set up using the FFA approach
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 400 youth trained in vegetable gardening, livestock fattening and food processing ➤ International Electrotechnical Commission campaigns on national and regional trade opportunities organized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 72 young girls trained (36 districts) on the manufacturing of artisanal masks and soap, for the prevention of COVID-19 ➤ Provision of 4,800 households with home garden equipment and agricultural seeds ➤ Establishment and capacity development of 100 Dimitra clubs ➤ Capacity-building for 55 trainers in conflict resolution ➤ Rehabilitation of 25 wells and boreholes in support of home gardens ➤ 80 producer organizations targeted for capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nutritional assistance for 2,721 children aged 6–23 months to prevent malnutrition ➤ 115,396 plants produced ➤ 276 small items of equipment replaced ➤ Development of new market garden areas (12 ha on four sites) ➤ Productive asset creation activities through the FFA approach resulting in a total of 1,020 ha of land restored, 73 km stone bunds constructed and 9,578 cubic meters of multipurpose water pond excavated

¹ They are groups of women, men, and young people – mixed or not – who organize on a voluntary basis to bring about changes in their communities and resolve problems using their own resources, without relying on external support.

Countries	IFAD financed anchor project managed activities	FAO activities	WFP activities
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identification of 30 farmer organizations for capacity building and provision of start-up funds ➤ Identification of sites for infrastructure construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 219 Dimitra clubs established for a total of 5,484 members, 58 percent of whom are women and 45 percent young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rehabilitation of pastoral service centres with the Departmental Service of Livestock and Animal Production ➤ Training on agro-biological techniques (composting, bio pesticides): 100 participants of which 28 women ➤ Productive asset creation activities through the FFA approach resulting in a total of 2.16 km of stone bunds and 10 dykes constructed
Chad		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Two participatory community planning workshops carried out for the benefit of 10 villages ➤ 1,600 kits (800 small ruminant kits and 800 rainfed crop kits) distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Productive asset creation activities through the FFA approach resulting in a total of three dikes of 0.82 km rehabilitated, 750 improved stoves manufactured within households, 300 family latrines constructed in vulnerable households and three grain stores built ➤ identification of 3,200 households and socioeconomic categorization following the household economy approach (2,014 men and 1,186 women including 1,318 young people) ➤ Food assistance in conditional cash to 2,075 households (1,400 households for the rehabilitation of dykes, 375 for improved stoves and 300 for latrines) through the FFA approach