



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO

+

Luxembourg

Building
prosperity for
zero hunger



Partnership at a glance

As one of the founding members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Luxembourg is a proactive advocate of international development cooperation and has a solid partnership with the Organization in the areas of food security and agricultural development. The fight against poverty and ultimately its eradication within sustainable development is at the basis of the country's development cooperation policy.

Luxembourg's development assistance focuses on several priority areas that are in line with FAO's mandate. They include health, water and sanitation; food security and nutrition, which are crucial for sustainable agricultural development and resilience to crises (e.g. climate change); education, with a focus on equal access for all; employability, with a special focus on women and youth; and vocational training systems. Moreover, the country's development cooperation maintains a strong geographic focus on West Africa, especially the Sahel region (aside Laos and Nicaragua, five out of seven priority countries are in West Africa: Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Mali, the Niger and Senegal).

The Agenda 2030's principle of "Leaving no one behind" and the commitments set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development are at the heart of the country's general development cooperation strategy — "The Road to 2030" — which focuses on people, prosperity, planet, partnerships and peace. Through this strategy, Luxembourg has supported FAO's work to eradicate hunger and eliminate poverty, while promoting economic, social and environmental sustainability within agricultural and food systems.

In the period 2009–2019, Luxembourg provided a total of USD 25.1 million (EUR 22.1 million¹) in voluntary and assessed contributions to FAO. More specifically, USD 5.4 million (EUR 4.7 million) were given in voluntary contributions between 2014 and 2019 and were mainly directed towards development projects in Africa (60 percent), followed by Asia (40 percent). Luxembourg has proven its commitment to sustainable development in a versatile manner, by supporting food and livelihood security in Afghanistan, contributing to the resilience of young people in Mali and strengthening early warning and preparedness in Senegal.

Luxembourg's strategy presents four inter-related thematic priorities that could serve as areas of continued cooperation with FAO. They include improving access to quality basic social services, enhancing socio-economic integration of women and youth, promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, and strengthening inclusive governance.

In the years to come, FAO and Luxembourg will continue to work around common priorities, exploring new and innovative partnerships and financing mechanisms that will strengthen their delivery of the 2030 Agenda and act as a driving force to achieve sustained prosperity and a Zero Hunger world. FAO will rely on its partners' contributions, including from Luxembourg, to step up efforts to support the fight against hunger in times of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, while realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

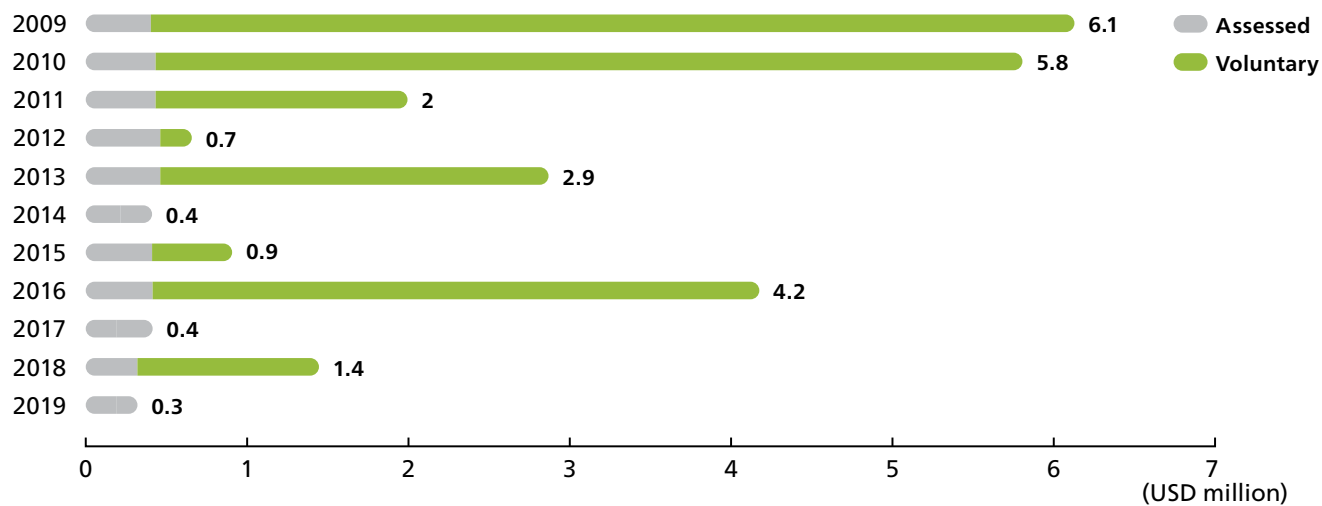
¹ Values in euros (EUR) are estimated based on the UN Operational Rate of Exchange as of 15 July 2020 (USD 1=EUR 0.88).

In figures

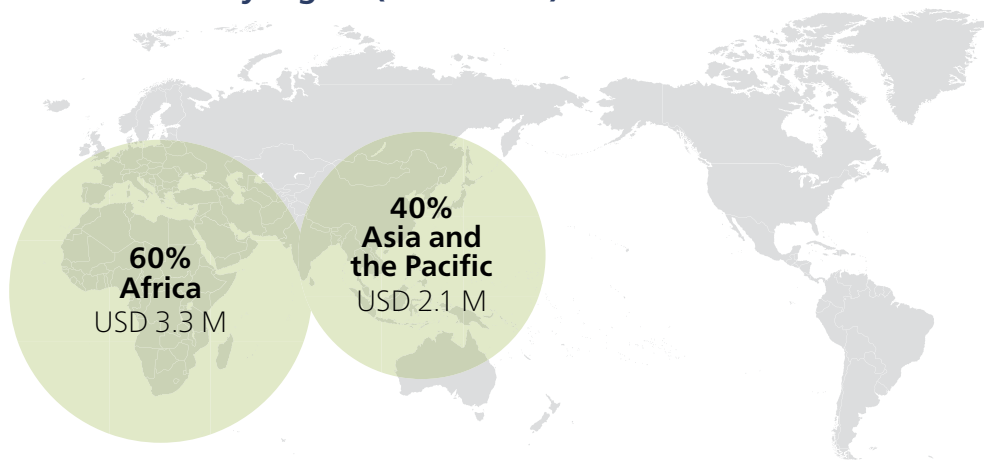
Total contributions to FAO (assessed and voluntary²) 2014–2019:

USD 7.7 M

Trend of total contributions (2009–2019)



Contributions by region (2014–2019)²



² Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals, excluding those provided to Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds.

Contributions by category (2014–2019)²



Contributions to FAO's areas of work/Strategic Objectives (2014–2019)² aligned to the SDGs³



² Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals, excluding those provided to Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds.

³ SDG targets and indicators included in the 2018–21 Strategic Objective results framework, as per FAO Director-General's Medium Term Plan (2018–21).

Investing in resilient rural livelihoods

Improvement of food and livelihood security for vulnerable households

In spite of significant reconstruction efforts, Afghanistan remains ravaged by three decades of devastating war, natural disasters and population growth, which have contributed to rampant poverty and food insecurity. Although almost half of rural households own and cultivate some land, and more than 64 percent own some sort of livestock or poultry, yields are far below the regional averages, while agricultural production is at the mercy of climatic conditions. The transformation of traditional subsistence production systems into a dynamic, modern agricultural sector depends on the widespread introduction and use of new knowledge, technologies and practices.

With contributions from Luxembourg, the Household Food and Livelihood Security (HFLS) project sought to address extreme poverty and hunger among some of the poorest households in rural Afghanistan in three successive phases. The HFLS approach involves targeting the livelihoods of the poorest, improving the capacities of the extension system to effectively provide services on demand, facilitating coordination among public and civil society institutions, improving market linkages, and facilitating literacy, sanitation and nutrition education for rural households.

The project addressed the lack of reliable information by conducting a number of data collection exercises, helping to introduce a data-driven approach to project planning. Detailed socio-economic, natural resource base, nutrition and livelihood information was shared with national and international partners in the target districts, improving informed decision-making and coordination among national institutions and their partners. Furthermore, organizing the target households into Common Interest Groups (CIGs) provided the poorest households with sufficient economies of scale to participate in markets. The HFLS project organized nearly 14 000 households made up of 2 400 women and 11 570 men into 637 CIGs, which continue to effectively access markets for both inputs and outputs.

Moreover, capacity building was focused on the district extension officers who are now capable of visiting farmer fields on a regular basis and providing the required advice. The officers in each district regularly conduct farmer field schools (FFS) servicing not only the project-supported CIGs, but also other farmers in the district. The initiative also facilitated literacy courses and nutrition education in collaboration with departments of education and health at the district level as part of the FFS curriculum. Female social mobilisers successfully provided literacy courses for rural women based on the adult education curriculum of the Ministry of Education, and nutrition education and sanitation courses in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Through a fourth phase, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock are seeking to capitalize on this highly successful project to support impoverished households in other districts.

Contribution:

USD 6.8 million (EUR 5.9 million)

Duration:

2010–2020

Beneficiaries:

Food insecure and resource-poor farming households.

Results:

- directly contributed to increased food production and commercialization for vulnerable farmers;
- comprehensive and integrated programme framework developed and rolled out to ensure close coordination of activities and resources for common objectives;
- contributed towards more productive and resilient agriculture-based livelihoods of the poorest households in targeted districts;
- institutional capacity developed at district level to facilitate improved service delivery.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Boosting youth employment in fragile settings

Contribution to the professional integration and the reinforcement of the resilience of young people

Boosting employment for young women and men in rural areas is a growing political priority across Africa, including West Africa. Young people under the age of 24 make up more than 60 percent of the population of the African continent — with more than 70 percent of them living on less than USD 2 per day. In Mali, massive unemployment and underemployment of young people are seen as a “time bomb”, aggravated by the devastating effects of conflicts and food crises. Creating attractive and decent jobs for rural youth in the agricultural sector has been recognized by the Government of Mali as having the potential to significantly contribute to increasing resilience and food security, and reducing rural poverty.

With contributions from Luxembourg, FAO implemented a project aimed at promoting the Junior Farmer Field and Life School (JFFLS) methodology in the Malian regions of Ségou and Sikasso, in order to strengthen the professional capacities of young people in rural areas, facilitating their access to credit, productive resources, markets and professional organizations. With an emphasis on vocational training and public-private partnerships (PPP), the project is facilitating the adoption of an integrated model for promoting the employment of young men and women in rural areas in promising agrifood value chains. Pilot PPP models in sectors chosen by the youth beneficiaries are helping to establish access to markets and productive resources in collaboration with national partners. In addition, the project is building capacity within the region to stimulate political dialogue, and coordination of intervention and stakeholders on youth employment issues, and institutionalize more suitable models for the training of young people in rural areas. By promoting decent rural employment for young people, the project is also contributing to the implementation of the second phase of the national road map for the reduction of child labour in agriculture.

“Thanks to the support of the project, we are increasingly mastering the cultivation of sesame. This year, we have sown on time and already see the allure of the field; we are sure to make a good sesame harvest and to get the maximum profit because at 30 days already, we have the blooms. We no longer need to go on an exodus because we have what it takes at our fingertips. A harvest can bring to us what we cannot have in two years of exodus — in addition we are at peace in our families”.

Bourama TANGARA, President of the Lahidu Group,
Village of Touna, Cercle de Bla (Ségou Region)

Contribution:

USD 1.8 million (EUR 1.6 million)

Duration:

2016–2020

Beneficiaries:

Unemployed and underemployed rural youth.

Results:

- training model implemented and self-employment promoted for young rural people according to market demands and by combining existing agricultural training centers and the JFFLS;
- regional capacities supported to stimulate medium and long-term political dialogue on youth employment issues and to favor the institutionalization of more suitable models for training young people in rural areas.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Promoting food safety emergency preparedness and response

Development of a national emergency response plan for food safety

Foodborne illnesses as well as events affecting food safety along the food chain remain one of the major causes of morbidity worldwide, particularly in developing countries. In Senegal, along with other African countries, foodborne illnesses are rife and weigh heavily on the already fragile health system. The high cost of food safety emergencies has a negative impact on economic productivity and growth and limits the ability of governments to invest in health, education, food security and development programmes. This state of affairs is accentuated by other factors including the ineffectiveness of foodborne risk control systems, inadequacy of regulatory texts in relation to emerging risks, proliferation of food sold on the streets without regulation, and lack of information and awareness of consumers, as well as the globalization of trade.

In response, Luxembourg funded a multi-year project to help strengthen national food safety systems in Africa by improving expertise and capacities in the prevention of and rapid response to food safety emergencies. The project built capacity in the eight West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) countries — Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, the Niger, Togo and particularly Senegal — in the surveillance, identification and management of food safety emergencies. The project's flagship result was the development of a national emergency response plan (PNRUSSA) for food safety in Senegal — the first emergency response plan in this part of Africa. As such, the project played a pioneering role in the region's food safety work and stimulated several initiatives around the multisectoral platform that constitutes the National Codex Alimentarius Committee. It notably enabled the strengthening of multisectoral collaboration and the sharing of information between the competent authorities of WAEMU member countries during the regional analysis of national food safety systems, and strengthened collaboration between FAO and the World Health Organization in Senegal.

Contribution:

USD 422 485 (EUR 371 786)

Duration:

2015–2017

Beneficiaries:

Government and non-government institutions involved in Senegal's food safety system, as well as consumers.

Results:

- developed and tested PNRUSSA for food safety in Senegal;
- surveillance and early warning capacity improved in the countries of the WAEMU region in the area of food safety;
- food safety surveillance and early warning system strengthened in Senegal, through multiple workshops and training sessions;
- food safety risk communication capacity improved in Senegal.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Operationalizing PNRUSSA for a more coordinated response to food safety emergencies

With additional resources from Luxembourg, FAO works to consolidate the achievements and lessons learned from the preceding project, to allow Senegal to strengthen its system and share its experiences with other countries of the WAEMU region, in particular Burkina Faso. Specifically, the project is enabling the operationalization of PNRUSSA developed under the previous project, ultimately allowing for more coordinated responses to food safety emergencies in a timely manner in order to protect consumer health by limiting the spread of food-borne hazards and illnesses.

Through this second phase of the Luxembourg-funded project for the establishment of Senegal's emergency response plan, FAO is also building capacities for integrated surveillance of the food chain and foresight in the country through the use of food and animal monitoring information, applying a One Health approach. This will help strengthen intersectoral collaboration so as to more effectively detect and manage problems that emerge at the human-animal-food interface, and enable the competent authorities of the food safety system to generate data on the prevalence of various hazards in the priority sectors of the food chain.

The sharing of experiences from Senegal will contribute to the development of a national food safety emergency response plan for Burkina Faso, as part of a tripartite collaboration that aims to strengthen the national food safety system in the country.

Contribution:

USD 1.1 million (EUR 968 000)

Duration:

2018–2020

Beneficiaries:

Individuals most vulnerable to foodborne illnesses, technical/management staff of governmental food safety and quality authorities, consumer associations and the private sector.

Results:

- effective operationalization of PNRUSSA carried out in Senegal;
- development and implementation of integrated surveillance in food safety supported in Senegal;
- legal framework governing food safety with application of Codex Alimentarius standards revised, and emergency management in the national regulatory corpus fully integrated;
- national food safety system strengthened in Burkina Faso.

Contribution to the SDGs:



Improving global food governance

FAO and Luxembourg share a commitment to strive for safe food for all. One of the most tangible ways the Organization contributes to the daily lives of people around the world is in developing and promoting international standards around the production and trade of food. From food labeling to the safe flow of plant products, FAO brokers international guidelines and hosts a myriad of commissions and governing bodies that keep our food safe and our food production sustainable into the future. Facilitating trade, keeping plants and animals healthy and ensuring that benefits are shared by all are essential parts of FAO's mission to strengthen national institutions and global food governance.

Codex Alimentarius

Luxembourg is a supporter of the Codex Alimentarius and is a member of the Codex Commission. The Codex plays an important role in ensuring the safety, quality and fairness of international food trade by setting international

standards, guidelines and codes of practice. Codex's broad scope, covering areas such as contaminants, nutrition, food hygiene, food labeling, additives, antimicrobial resistance and pesticide and veterinary drug residues, makes it an essential part of achieving food security and zero hunger. Public concern about food safety, meanwhile, often places Codex at the centre of global debates.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

Luxembourg is a Contracting Party to the IPPC, actively participating in the Convention's work and providing technical support to the Convention's activities aimed at securing coordinated, effective actions to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests that affect plants and plant products. The Convention, governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, covers cultivated plants and natural flora. It also extends to vehicles, aircrafts and vessels, containers, storage places, soil and other objects or materials that can harbour or spread pests. The IPPC encourages collaboration between various national and regional plant protection organizations to implement the rules set out in the agreement.



Ongoing bilateral projects funded by Luxembourg (2014–2019)*

Project symbol	Project title	Total budget (USD)**	Start date	End date	Location
GCP/AFG/072/LUX	Support to Extension Systems, Household Food and Livelihood Security (HFLS) phase II	2 370 350	01/08/13	31/12/16	Afghanistan
GCP/AFG/088/LUX	Household Food and Livelihood Security (HFLS) and Support to the Development of an effective Extension System Phase III	2 322 924	01/05/17	31/08/20	Afghanistan
GCP/MLI/044/LUX	Contribution à l'insertion professionnelle et au renforcement de la résilience des jeunes en milie	1 884 983	01/01/16	31/12/20	Mali
GCP/RER/019/LUX	Development Assistance to Farmers in Remote Areas of Montenegro and Kosovo	6 733 543	01/06/06	31/10/15	Regional Europe
GCP/SEN/067/LUX	Renforcement de la capacité de surveillance, d'alerte rapide et de préparation à la gestion des urgences de sécurité sanitaire des aliments dans la région de l'UEMOA, et mise en oeuvre au Sénégal.	422 485	01/01/15	31/12/17	Senegal
GCP/SEN/072/LUX	Amélioration de la prévention et de la réponse aux urgences de sécurité sanitaire des aliments au Sénégal et au Burkina Faso	1 125 592	01/01/18	31/12/20	Senegal

*Refers to voluntary contributions based on approvals, excluding those provided to Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds.

**Subject to change for ongoing projects.

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