

# ROSA Newsletter



## OPERATIONAL FOOD SECURITY NETWORK

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### ZOOM

**SUMMARY:** Zoom on aid alignment > UNICEF international conference on child undernutrition > Agenda > ROSA News

## Moving towards increased aid alignment in the food and nutrition security sector



Alignment, one of the five principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, involves donors aligning their aid policies on development priorities and strategies defined by the partner countries, and using institutional structures and national systems for managing the aid<sup>1</sup>. Particular attention is paid to using national systems and procedures specific to each partner country<sup>2</sup> and to the support provided for consolidating these systems. Thus donor countries must seek to avoid activities that undermine national institution building, such as the development of parallel systems with-



**The 5 principles of the Paris Declaration (OECD, 2005)**

out paying attention to transition mechanisms and building long term capacity.

Over the last few years, progress has been made in applying this principle. Many bilateral and multi-lateral donors make efforts to align their programmes with the national priorities in the countries in which the priorities are defined. However, ensuring that this principle is effectively applied remains a challenge. In particular, efforts are needed in operational terms, in the following areas: the use of national systems<sup>3</sup>; alignment with sector approaches; and alignment with local priorities and planning<sup>4</sup>.

What are the main principles of alignment? What progress has been made and what difficulties have been encountered in putting them into practice? This article presents current thinking on the question of aid alignment, and focuses particularly on the issues in the areas of food security, nutrition and agriculture.

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<sup>1</sup> See Accra Action Programme (2008) in which national capacity building is also a central aspect.

<sup>2</sup> This concerns using implementation procedures established in the countries not only as part of budget support, but also as part of procedures related to programmes and projects.

<sup>3</sup> Progress made in improving the quality of national systems is very variable from one country to another, and even when good quality national systems exist, donors frequently do not use them.

<sup>4</sup> OECD, Effectiveness of aid 2005-2010. Progress made in applying the Paris Declaration, 2011.

## The main principles of alignment

The Paris Declaration (2005) is based on five principles that aim to increase the effectiveness of development aid: ownership, alignment, harmonisation, results-oriented management and mutual accountability<sup>5</sup>. The principle of alignment covers **two dimensions** that mark an important change for development assistance:

- **Strategic (or political) alignment:** development assistance must be aligned with the priorities and strategies defined by the partner countries. Rather than imposing their own priorities, donors must take account the strategies of each country, such as national development plans, poverty reduction strategy papers or other equivalent documents. More limited sector approaches are also promoted in order to direct aid effectively to the most relevant sectors and programmes (see below).
- **Alignment with national systems:** the aid must be delivered through the system set up by the partner countries instead of setting up project structures belonging to each donor or each project. Since aid is temporary by definition, it must strengthen the national systems that will continue the work once the aid has finished. This change has begun, but remains minimal. Many donors maintain project structures in order to limit financial and operational risks. However, some have reduced their requirements in terms of risk in order to allow national governments systems to be used to channel aid<sup>6</sup>.

These principles have been confirmed during different forums on the effectiveness of aid, particularly in Accra in 2008 and in Busan in 2011.

### Box 1: Busan Partnership for effective cooperation in development (2011)

« The use and strengthening of developing countries' systems remains central to our efforts to build effective institutions. We will build on our respective commitments set out in the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action to:

- a) **Use country systems** as the default approach for development co-operation in support of activities managed by the public sector, working with and respecting the governance structures of both the provider of development co-operation and the developing country.
- b) **Assess jointly country systems** using mutually agreed diagnostic tools. Based on the results of these assessments, providers of development co-operation will decide on the extent to which they can use country systems. Where the full use of country systems is not possible, the provider of development co-operation will state the reasons for non-use, and will discuss with government what would be required to move towards full use, including any necessary assistance or changes for the strengthening of systems. The use and strengthening of country systems should be placed within the overall context of national capacity development for sustainable outcomes.

The issues vary from one country, region or sector to another and require different **levels of alignment**. The variety of situations means that they cannot be considered as part of a progression to an optimal state of alignment. However, based on concrete examples, it is possible to draw up an analysis grid of the level of alignment of aid<sup>7</sup>:

- **Programme alignment** consists in aligning donor interventions with the priorities identified by the partner countries. This covers the political and strategic objectives of aid alignment.
- **Institutional alignment** aims to transfer the functions of steering, management, implementation and monitoring-assessment to national institutions (this

<sup>5</sup> The Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, 2005 <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/34428351.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness Facility, the Aid Effectiveness Portal, <http://www.aideffectiveness.org/The-Paris-Principles-Alignment.html>

<sup>7</sup> Crola and Saulière, Aid Coordination and Alignment: Myth or reality? The case of the ECOWAS regional agriculture policy, Oxfam, 2011. <http://oxfamlibrary.openrepository.com/oxfam/bitstream/10546/141974/1/rr-aid-coordination-alignment-ecowas-090911-en.pdf>

includes central government, ministries, central and decentralised technical departments, local authorities). Donors abandon their parallel project management units to align with the country's own structures and procedures. These structures will have been previously reinforced and given enough resources to carry out their functions.

- **Financial (or fiduciary) alignment** consists in using the national or regional financial circuits. Budget support (see below), in its different modalities, is part of this. The foreseeable nature of the financial resources provided by donors must enable the partner country to anticipate when payments are due and in the long term to plan the mobilisation of resources necessary to continue the interventions when there is no more external funding.

These three levels of alignment are a sort of progression, although this is not systematic. For example, cases can exist of financial alignment even when institutional alignment is not complete.

One of the aspects of alignment with national priorities concerns **aid modalities**. **Project aid** remains one of the main instruments in most of the partner countries. According to the principles of alignment, this aid must be integrated and aligned in the framework of medium term expenditure and the country's sector programmes. Over the last few years, donor countries have increasingly prioritised sector programmes and budget support. The **programme-based approach**<sup>8</sup> is becoming one of the most important means of promoting harmonisation and alignment. It is used in various sectors such as health, education and infrastructures. This instrument facilitates the coordinated implementation of projects and programmes using both project -aid and budget support. **Budget support** is also currently developing because it enables donors to bring direct aid, at a sector level (generally as part of a programme-based approach) or at the level of the whole economy, to the budget and to the Government priorities of the partner country. This enhances the strengthening of institutions, particularly in the area of managing public finances. The programme-based approach and budget support generally require permanent dialogue and monitoring during implementation<sup>9</sup>.

## Box 2: The commitments of the Paris Declaration monitored by the OECD

The OECD is the main body charged with monitoring the commitments of its members pursuant to the Paris Declaration. Several tools have been set up and are regularly updated.

**Monitoring surveys**<sup>10</sup> are carried out by OECD in which DAC member countries and partner countries participate on a voluntary basis. The last monitoring exercise was performed in 2011 in preparation for the Busan conference on aid effectiveness. It took the form of several country reports, but no sector report on food security.

**Peer reviews** analyse, every four years, the aid policies and modalities of each of the 24 DAC countries. For the EU, the last peer review took place in 2012<sup>11</sup>. After a detailed statistical analysis of European aid, guidelines are set out at the end of the document, particularly on questions of alignment.

**The evaluation of the Paris Declaration** was performed in 2011 by independent consultants based on the aid given to twenty countries<sup>12</sup>. It highlights the progress and difficulties encountered in the application of the principles and attempts to show their impacts on development.

<sup>8</sup> This aims to support a given sector that has the following characteristics: a sectoral policy with qualitatively or quantitatively defined objectives; a formal process of donor action coordination; a programme of medium term expenditure; a results-based monitoring system; and as far as possible, common implementation systems.

<sup>9</sup> OECD, *Harmonization, alignment, results. Progress report on aid effectiveness*, The DAC Journal, 4/2005.

<sup>10</sup> For the last report: OECD, *Aid effectiveness 2005-2010. Progress made in implementing the Paris Declaration*, 2011. (see chapter 3 on alignment) <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/48742718.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> DAC Peer Review of the European Union, OECD, 2012 <http://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/50155818.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> The evaluation of the Paris Declaration, Phase 2, 2011 <http://pd-website.inforce.dk/content/pdf/PD-en-web.pdf>

## The implementation of aid alignment

Alignment is addressed in the various strategic documents of the major donors. However, the operational implementation of this political objective is a complex process. The OECD reports on the monitoring of commitments of the Paris Declaration (see Box 2) show major progress in terms of alignment with national priorities and strategies<sup>13</sup>. The number of partner countries to have drawn up national strategies has tripled since 2005 and most donors have aligned their programmes with these priorities.

As part of the revision of its development policy, the European Union has defined a certain number of principles that apply to the preparation of strategy documents with the aim of simplifying and rationalising the programming process for 2014-2020 and of fostering the alignment with national programmes. As a result, no strategy document will be drawn up in the countries or regions that already have a national development strategy in the form of a development plan or similar document accepted by the Commission as a basis for long-term programming.

More modest or varied progress has been noted concerning the use of national programmes. Donors make more use of partner country national systems but not yet to the extent recommended by the Paris Declaration<sup>14</sup>. In particular, donors do not systematically use national systems, including in the countries which have improved the quality of their systems of managing public finances. Moreover, this alignment is both at the central/national level in the design, steering management and monitoring of programmes and projects, and also at the local level in the implementation of actions by technical services. Different reports emphasises that capacity building occurs at the national level for carrying out these tasks, but that locally, the services do not receive this capacity building and encounter difficulties in implementing their actions.

## Main challenges for the sectors of food security and rural development

Although strategic alignment was emphasised very early on food security interventions (rural development and food security strategies), the alignment with national systems is more complex for this sector. Compared with education or health sectors which have managed large-scale programmes, the state often plays a more limited role in the agricultural sector. Donors and governments also frequently disagree about the functions that the national systems should provide (supplying public goods, regulation of externalities, trade regulation)<sup>15</sup>. However, going back to the two dimensions of alignment, several major objectives seem to be agreed upon:

### Strategic alignment

- Fostering the emergence of sector-specific or global strategies or frameworks which are really owned by the countries and drawn up in consultation with civil society and the players in the sector.
- Having sufficiently clear, quantified political strategies and frameworks to be able to guide funding and the actions funded or implemented by donors and the other partners.
- Enabling the ownership of political strategies and frameworks at all levels (governments, ministry departments, central and decentralised technical services, local governments, etc.)

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<sup>13</sup> The budget support guidelines published in September 2012 by EuropeAid consider alignment as one of the two specific objectives of the budget support programmes. Budget Support Guidelines. Executive Guide, EuropeAid, 2012 [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/delivering-aid/budget-support/documents/bs\\_guidelines-part\\_i\\_executive\\_guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/delivering-aid/budget-support/documents/bs_guidelines-part_i_executive_guide_en.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> They are committed to using the national systems of the partner countries in at least four major areas: managing public finances, transferring markets, monitoring and assessment, environmental and social safeguard measures.

<sup>15</sup> Cabral, Sector-based approach in agriculture. Past experience, current settings and future options, ODI, 2009 <http://www.odi.org.uk/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/5768.pdf>



- Accompanying the leadership necessary for the ownership, implementation and monitoring of sector or global policies of poverty reduction.

### Alignment with national systems

- Capacity building of States for planning, managing, monitoring and assessing.
- Increasing the effectiveness of interventions by removing operational units set up by donors and transferring the management to ministries or government authorities.
- Capacity building of technical services to enable effective implementation of actions.
- Using national funding circuits where appropriate.
- Providing a foreseeable level of aid in the long term.
- Guaranteeing the transparency of eligibility criteria and conditionality of aid.



Little assessment work has been done on the progress of alignment in this particular sector. For example, the detailed reports on progress in the implementation of the OECD's Paris Declaration principles do not propose an analysis by sector. The reference document on the sector approaches in agriculture and rural development published by EuropeAid raise several challenges encountered in the support for national development programmes in these sectors. The need for cross-sector coordination and decentralised interventions, and the great diversity of players involved, makes it more difficult to consider agriculture in a sector approach<sup>16</sup>. EC guidelines note that the concepts and instruments as used in the traditional sectors<sup>17</sup> must be flexibly adapted to the specific needs of the non-traditional sectors, and that the “learning through action” process should be enhanced by the experiences acquired in this area.

What lessons should we draw from the recent support in the sector of food security and nutrition? What are the main success factors and the main constraints to be noted? How can we carry out a political dialogue when the priorities of the partner countries are not compatible with the approaches, policies and priorities of donors? What support can be brought to foster the alignment of programmes, institutions and finances? These are some of the questions asked when applying aid alignment. In order to develop the content of this article and to bring it closer to the realities in the field on the themes of food security, nutrition and agriculture, a **feedback process** will be launched through the network.

**Rosa members will be asked to share experiences and lessons learnt in their countries or regions.**

<sup>16</sup> EuropeAid, *Sector approaches in agriculture and rural development*, Reference document No. 5, October 2008 >>>

<sup>17</sup> Traditionally, sector approaches have emphasised sectors such as health or education. The ‘non-traditional’ sectors are characterised by large cross-sectors aspects, involving several organisations, and a less dominant degree of government and public expenditure. This particularly concerns agriculture and rural development, but also trade and justice.

## The international conference against child malnutrition: How can we translate the international consensus into practical results?

Last May, Unicef organised an international conference addressing child malnutrition, on the theme "Bridging the nutrition security gap in Sub-Saharan Africa: A pathway to resilience and development". With a very wide range of participants including government representatives, members of parliament, donors, UN agencies, academics, NGOs and the private sector, a broad consensus was reached on the need to invest more in preventing child malnutrition and mobilising long-term funding and ensuring that it is durable.

This article reviews the main recommendations of the conference by presenting two complementary points of view. Firstly, Félicité Tchibindat, the regional nutrition advisor of the Unicef office for West and Central Africa, emphasises the importance of scaling up long-term strategies in the countries of this region. She advocates that this broad consensus should now be translated into action and more resources invested. Then Bakari Seidou, a Nigerien member of parliament insists on the role of parliamentarians in increasing national leadership in addressing malnutrition.

**This conference is part of a series of high level events on nutrition in 2013. What was the added value of this meeting organised by Unicef? What are the main messages that come out of these discussions?**

**Félicité Tchibindat:** These different events are happening at a strategic time and help step up the efforts to put nutrition at the heart of political agenda nationally and internationally. The aim of last May's conference was to drive momentum for political commitment around the scale-up in **Sub-Saharan Africa** of long-term strategies for addressing child malnutrition. We wanted to emphasise several questions which seem to us to be essential. In the first place, we wanted to focus on the debates on Sub-Saharan Africa, the only region in the world where the figures are not improving. Whereas the world prevalence of stunting in children under 5 has decreased by over one third, the decrease recorded in Africa was only 16% over the last twenty years<sup>1</sup>. Over one third of the countries in the region still have very high prevalence. Today people are aware of the need to make this a priority and implement larger-scale interventions for speeding the reduction of malnutrition in the region.

Secondly, we have placed **prevention** at the heart of debates. For many years, priority was given to emergency responses for treating acute malnutrition. But this is not enough. Now we need to invest more in prevention to address the underlying structural causes of undernutrition. This requires linking the humanitarian response to long-term prevention mechanisms. Thirdly, it is vital to step up the **multi-sectoral approach**, and we made this question a key element of the discussion. We are all convinced of the advantages of working better together, and not being compartmentalised in our different sectors. The Paris conference gathered many different stakeholders, particularly coming from sectors not directly related to nutrition. The discussions enriched the debate and fostered a better joint understanding of the issues. They made it possible to talk about how this question is addressed in other sectors, such as water, sanitation, hygiene and agriculture, so as to establish linkages and synergies between the various interventions<sup>2</sup>. To do this, it is important to be based on practical examples and evidence-based experiences.

<sup>1</sup> This difference is partly explained by the reductions recorded in East Asia and the Pacific, mainly due to the improvements obtained by China, where the prevalence of malnutrition went from over 30% in 1990 to 10% in 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Much research work highlights the impact of environmental enteropathy on health and nutritional status. This implies stepping up interventions on water, hygiene and sanitation.

Lastly, the emphasis was on the **1,000 day window of opportunity** (between conception and a child's second birthday). This period is considered to be decisive because the effect of poor nutrition during these 1,000 days has irreversible consequences on children's physical and cognitive development. We need to concentrate on this priority target to deal lastingly with the problem.

Another key message of the conference concerns the **central role of women**. It was emphasised that intervention needs to occur as soon as possible, before a woman becomes pregnant. But it was also underlined that we know more what to do from pregnancy but not as much what to do before. This is another area in which research is needed to define priority actions. There are noteworthy avenues to explore. They necessitate going to other sectors outside of traditional nutrition-related ones, for example the education sector, both formal and informal sector. The role of women also needs strengthening, and more work needs to be done with their families and communities, because this can play a decisive role on decision-making in households.



**Much space was given to the question of financing work on preventing malnutrition. Today, funding trends for management of acute malnutrition are increasing, whereas funding for reducing stunting remains very limited. What were the main avenues suggested for meeting the challenge of funding particularly for prevention?**

**Félicité Tchibindat:** **Financing** is the crux of the matter because we need resources to scale up priority interventions. The resources mobilised are still not enough. But there is important progress. We now have a European Commission which has decided, for its 11th European Development Fund (EDF), to direct specific funding to nutrition. Other donors (multilaterals and from the private sector) recently confirmed their commitment to increase the financial resources during the recent pre-G8 summit. The SUN movement (Scaling up Nutrition) has greatly contributed to a strengthening of political commitment. Governments are driving forces but all the other stakeholders need to be mobilised.

As well as the funding mobilised by international players, it is vital to increase **national funding, putting the emphasis on prevention**. Today, very few countries have budget lines specific to nutrition<sup>3</sup>. Political commitment needs to be reflected through the allocation of resources and all stakeholders need to have a critical eye on the **management of the resources available**. For this, a monitoring system needs to be set up, and more work needs to be done with the players involved to raise awareness and inform them about the importance of addressing malnutrition as a priority. It is important to emphasise that **parliamentarians** from different countries can play a very important role. For this reason, from August this year, we are preparing specific training programmes firstly for parliamentarians who took part in the conference, and then the initiative could be extended to the whole region. As well as financial resources, I believe it is important to emphasise **local capacity building**. This question was hardly mentioned during the conference, but it is a key factor, because without adequate human resources, implementation will not be done satisfactorily.

In conclusion, I would like to insist on the fact that malnutrition is not just a problem of public health. It is also a problem of economic and human development. This is why it is important to act on prevention and to scale up proven interventions to get concrete results. There is strong commitment and a broad consensus. These must now be translated into action on the ground, more financial and human resources for implementation and greater accountability of governments and civil society.

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<sup>3</sup> In West Africa for example, it is difficult to measure the budgets allocated to nutrition, the funding is very low (less than 1%) or is spread out over several budget lines.

**As an introduction to the closing ceremony of the conference, the European and African parliamentarians made a call<sup>4</sup> for increased mobilisation against child malnutrition. How did this parliamentary initiative come about?**

**Bakari Seidou:** First of all it should be remembered that since the 2005 food crisis, malnutrition is higher up the agenda in humanitarian actions on food insecurity, and funding arrangements are more readily available, particularly for acute malnutrition. In Niger for example, we have focused largely on the curative aspects of this type of malnutrition. Preventing chronic malnutrition has not received the same attention or the same political and financial investment. However, the prevalence of stunting is over 50% in some parts of Niger. Today there is a general awareness and an increased commitment from partners and the Government on the need to step up preventive actions, while continuing the work of treating and managing malnutrition. So there is a need to **develop an approach focused on prevention rather than on managing crises**. Despite some progress, much remains to be done. Broader, country-wide programmes are needed, along with specific long term funding for nutrition and capacity building in national structures.



The Paris conference was an opportunity for discussing the different issues on a regional scale. Political commitment and the mobilisation of all the stakeholders concerned are recognised as key factors for moving forward. The call made by the parliamentarians is the result of discussions during this meeting. As representatives of the people, we were all conscious that we have an important part to play in **strengthening national leadership** in addressing malnutrition. We want the fight against malnutrition to become a priority in development policies, and we want to see political commitment become practical action by drawing on the necessary financial resources for implementing large scale priority interventions.

**What were the main recommendations? How are you going to put these commitments into practice?**

**Bakari Seidou:** Several initiatives are currently underway in certain countries in the region. In Niger, we have created a parliamentary network for promoting nutrition and food security, with fifteen committed members of parliament. We will work on several fronts. Firstly, by organising parliamentary information days for raising awareness and informing parliamentarians on malnutrition. This information will help raise awareness, and also help **decision-making**. Then we are planning to carry out advocacy actions for **drawing up and implementing laws** to improve the nutrition and food security of our people. We need to set up a legal framework that fosters actions in this area. Moreover we are going to take action in the **national budget programming and allocation**. We believe that it is important to create a specific budget line in the national budget for nutrition so that we can give priority to funding preventive actions. Lastly, we intend to monitor actions by keeping them to Government's commitments to ensure that they become practical actions.

We need to share experiences that are underway in Africa. One of our main recommendations is to **create national networks of parliamentarians** who are committed to nutrition and create a network of the various regional initiatives. In West Africa, it will be vital to involve regional bodies such as ECOWAS. If this call is to work, it needs to be supported by the determination of parliamentarians. In order to give shape to the global process, Unicef can act as a driver by facilitating the networking of national initiatives all over the continent. In the months to come, we need to find ways to work together to bring about a real change so that the African continent can scale up effective actions for sustainably reducing malnutrition.

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<sup>4</sup> See the text of the call (in French) [>>>](#)





## Upcoming events

**15-20 July:** 6th Africa agriculture science week and FARA general assembly, Accra (Ghana) [>>>](#)

**10th July:** Social protection and food security—What Works? GIZ/BMZ, Bonn (Germany) [>>>](#)

**Don't hesitate to post events on Rosa collaborative platform** [>>>](#)

## Past events

### ● **International conference against child undernutrition, UNICEF – Paris, 15-16**

**May 2013:** To complete the above interviews, the documents from the conference are available on the Rosa platform: speeches, presentations from the 2 days, call of parliamentarians and conference report. [>>>](#)

### ● **AGRAR 2013 Research conference on agriculture, food and nutrition in Africa – Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire), 4-6 June 2013:**

The first Conference of African research on agriculture, food and nutrition 'AGRAR 2013' was held on 4-6 June in Yamoussoukro. Organised by Cirad, the western and central African council for agriculture research for development (Coraf) and the Institut National Polytechnique in Yamoussoukro (INP FHB), it aims to draw a review of African research in the context of changes in the agriculture, food and nutrition since the 2008 food price crisis. AGRAR-2013 is the first of a series of conferences which will be held every three years. Nearly 70 contributions presented during the conference are available on the website. They deal with a variety of topics of interest for agriculture research and innovation, food and nutrition security, food crises, cotton production, in west and central Africa. [>>>](#)

# ROSA NEWS



## EC's latest news

### ● **Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on food and nutrition security in external assistance :**

On 28th May 2013, the Council of the European Union met and developed Conclusions on Food and Nutrition Security in external assistance. While referring to the importance of under nutrition, the Conclusions also mention the increasing prevalence of over-nutrition globally and the incidence of diet-related non-communicable diseases. The Conclusion is stressing the importance of a right-based approach towards the realization of the right to adequate food. The council welcomes the different initiatives acting at various geographical levels towards food and nutrition security: Committee on World Food Security, Scaling-Up Nutrition, 2012 New Alliance partnership, Zero Hunger, SHARE and AGIR initiatives.

Regarding agriculture, the Conclusion emphasizes the need to support smallholder farmers' and the need for an environmentally friendly agriculture. It also stresses the importance of the good governance for land tenure and welcomes the adoption of last year's voluntary guidelines. The volatility of food prices is recognized as a factor of vulnerability for poor people. The Council thus highlights the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility.

The council insists on the importance of mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of women. Finally, the Council welcomes the publication of the Final Report of the EU Food Facility (see below). [>>>](#)

## New online resources

### ● **Final report on the implementation of the EU food facility, European Commission – June 2013:**

Established in December 2008 following the G8 Summit of July 2008, the EU Food Facility contributed with 1 billion € to the response to the food and financial crisis that stroke the planet from 2007 onwards. According to the re-



port, between 2009 and 2011 the facility reached 59 million direct beneficiaries and a further 93 million indirectly, in 49 target countries. The final report and its staff working document highlights the background and rationale of the Food Facility, describes the outcomes and impact, analyses the lessons learnt and finally draws conclusions and recommendations in the light of future suitable activities.

Final report of the European commission (11 pages) [>>>](#)

Commission staff working document [>>>](#)

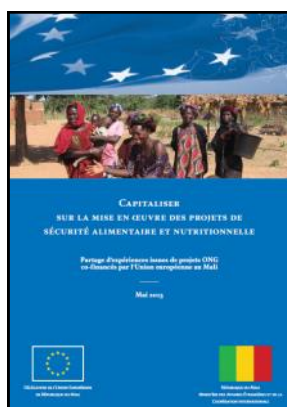
- **Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security (summary and recommendations, High level panel of experts on food security and nutrition – May 2013):** This document from the High Level Panel of Experts provides the main elements and the recommendations from the upcoming report on the topic due later this year. This paper reminds that smallholder farmers are the key of the food security in developing countries but are the most vulnerable. It explains why investing in smallholder agriculture is crucial for food security and food sovereignty, who at the present time is invest in it, and how. It explains also the constraints to smallholders investments and how to overcome them. Finally, the HLPE provides three recommendations to the sponsor of the report, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). [>>>](#)

- **AGIR Sahel and West Africa. Regional roadmap – April 2013:** In April 2013, the AGIR senior expert group adopted a regional roadmap setting its main objectives for action. This roadmap must still be detailed at the country level into national priorities on 'Résilience' along with operational framework of funding, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The roadmap puts AGIR to work together with existing actions, providing added value on three aspects: creating an enabling environment to place the resilience at the heart of the strategies and policies of food and nutritional security, aligning individual and collective actions with the results 'resilience' and promoting mutual learning and sharing of best practices. [>>>](#)

- **Capitalizing on the implementation of food and nutrition security projects in Mali, Agnès Lambert and Seydou Issaka (AEDES-IRAM) (title translated)– May 2013:** This capitalization work is the result of a long process conducted with several NGOs that implement projects funded by the European Union (ECHO) in Mali. The process was initiated to contribute to improving the quality and effectiveness of projects on food security and nutrition through sharing and highlighting good and bad practice. This document also lists key questions to investigate the practices of NGOs and indicates some recommendations in order to improve the implementation of various activities. First results of this capitalization concern crosscutting issues related to the implementation of action related to gardening and irrigated crops, small-scale livestock, training / literacy, IEC-CCC activities in the areas of health and nutrition. [>>>](#)

- **Food security: reviving agricultural production or ensuring social welfare? The example of Malawi, FARM foundation – February 2013:** To fight against poverty and food insecurity in Africa, Governments and donors first favoured agricultural production. Recently, the strengthening of social protection makes more followers. After pilot initiatives, social safety nets are currently deployed on a large scale on the continent. It is legitimate to compare the effectiveness of two types of aid. In Malawi, the input subsidies have increased corn production, but they are not enough to reduce rural poverty and ensure food security when the external environment is unfavourable. Social protection, in the form of cash transfers, can appear as a competitor in terms of funding, but its effects are complementary. It is by combining these two programs - social support for the most vulnerable, productive support for poor farmers - that Malawi could best respond to the diversity of the needs of its population. [>>>](#)

- **Small scale big impact. Smallholder agriculture's contribution to better nutrition, UK Hunger Alliance – April 2013:** This policy brief is part of the advocacy campaign from the UK Hunger Alliance (ACF International, Actionaid, Care, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, Save the Children, Tearfund, World Vision) to





the G8 which was held on June 17 and 18. The UK Hunger Alliance recommends to the heads of state of the G8 to rise to the ZeroHunger Challenge and to support smallholder farmers in order to achieve such goal. They highlight the role of the smallholders (especially home gardens and livestock) to reduce malnutrition and the specific role of the women. >>>

## External resources and blogs

- **HEA Sahel. Household Economy Approach:** The HEA Sahel website, hosted by Save the Children, gathers all the information collected through the implementation of the household economy approach by the several partners and funded by ECHO. There are regional and national maps along with profiles analyses. The website is in French but some documents are available in English. >>>
- **The seven deadly myths of social protection. Blog article by Nicholas Freeland – May 2013:** This article, initially published on [development pathways](#) was re-submitted by Nicholas Freeland on Rosa network. You can access the article from the C4D Rosa platform. >>>

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The network is an initiative of EuropeAid (Unit C1 – Rural development, food security and nutrition in collaboration with Unit R7 – Training, knowledge management, internal communication, documentation).

The points expressed do not reflect the official position of the European Commission.

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