

FAO IFAD WFP



# Working together



to fight hunger and poverty



*From left to right: Fawzi H. Al-Sultan, President, IFAD; Catherine A. Bertini, Executive Director, WFP; Jacques Diouf, Director-General, FAO*

The Rome Declaration on World Food Security reaffirmed the fundamental right of all people to be free from hunger. Yet more than 800 million people throughout the world, and particularly in developing countries, lack sufficient food to meet even basic nutritional needs. As this final decade of the century comes to a close, it is more evident than ever that cooperation and collaboration at all levels is essential to the eradication of hunger and poverty. A key ingredient in this context is the continued and strengthened collaboration among our three Rome-based United Nations agencies, FAO, IFAD and WFP, dealing with agriculture, food, rural development and poverty alleviation worldwide. We are wholly united in our commitment to meeting the goals of the World Food Summit Plan of Action which envisages the eradication of hunger and poverty in all countries.

The complementarity of the mandates of FAO, IFAD and WFP – emphasizing respectively technical expertise, international financial assistance and food aid – ensures that, working together, we can greatly enhance the overall impact of our operations. Our three agencies collaborate in formulation of new policies and practical approaches to overcoming hunger and in development of best practices in dealing with crisis and promoting recovery and development. While we will always strive for new dimensions in our collaborative efforts, it is important to take stock of our past achievements and current successes in order to work together most effectively.

FAO and WFP cooperate in joint assessment of the vulnerability of poor people to food crises, and WFP provides logistical services for joint distribution of food aid with FAO seed and agricultural inputs. FAO technical expertise is frequently combined with IFAD financing or WFP food aid. In turn, IFAD provides grants for FAO-sponsored technical assistance and research activities, and IFAD-financed projects may incorporate WFP food aid and food-for-work programmes. FAO, through its Investment Centre Division, maintains a multidisciplinary service for identifying and appraising projects suitable for IFAD financing and for assisting developing countries in submitting project proposals; the costs are shared between the two agencies by formal agreement. The Investment Centre also coordinates the provision of FAO's technical services to WFP.

In addition to the multifaceted field collaboration among FAO, IFAD and WFP, there is a great deal of cooperation and cost sharing in Rome, particularly in the areas of conference services, translation, administration, information technology and library/documentation services. All agencies share conference facilities and equipment and even security personnel wherever practical. In a major effort to cut costs, promote efficiency and share information, all agencies regularly collaborate on integration of their information technology and data to avoid overlap. Such cooperative efforts include the hosting of IFAD's bibliographical database on FAO's mainframe computer and the sharing of online evaluation studies among agencies. The exchange of library resources among agencies began years ago and results in the exceptional resources available to all staff today.

Over the past few years all three organizations, strengthened by the reform processes, have undertaken important steps to place our collaboration on a firm and continuing institutional basis. Tripartite meetings are held regularly at both the policy and technical levels to determine modalities for mutual cooperation and to agree upon specific areas and programmes for further follow-up and joint or parallel operations. Our member countries are entitled to the most effective services we can provide – fostered by inventive and efficient partnerships among our agencies and all other participants in the development process. We are confident that, working together, we can maximize our impact and make a genuine difference in the lives of the hungry and poor.



Jacques Diouf, Director-General, FAO



Fawzi H. Al-Sultan, President, IFAD



Catherine A. Bertini, Executive Director, WFP

## different mandates

**FAO** was founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise nutritional levels and living standards, to improve agricultural productivity and to better the condition of rural people. FAO is the lead agency for technical expertise in food security, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development, as well as in the sustainable management of natural resources essential over the long term.

**WFP**, the food aid agency of the United Nations system, was created in 1963. It provides food aid to save lives in emergency situations, to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives, to help build infrastructural assets and to promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities.

**IFAD** was established in 1977 to assist developing countries to combat rural poverty by mobilizing and providing financial resources on concessional terms for agricultural and rural development projects. Its mandate is unique among international financial institutions: to fund rural development projects that will improve the nutritional level and living conditions of the poorest populations in developing countries.

# Working tog

**From relief to sustainable development** In recent years, the frequency and severity of devastating global droughts, floods and storms have increased dramatically. At the same time, the levels of destruction and suffering resulting from complex man-made emergencies – civil strife and the collapse into chaos of shattered countries – have also increased.

Assistance following emergencies must be provided within a clear framework that includes impact assessment, quick survey of needs and a clear understanding of the respective roles of coordinating partners. The three Rome-based agencies, while working within the scope of their distinct mandates and operational focus, interact in support of one another and in cooperation with the United Nations system as a whole to assist in the rehabilitation, reconstruction and sustainable recovery of the food and agriculture sectors.

**Rwanda** Cooperation among the three Rome-based agencies in Rwanda was already close before the tragic events of 1994. At this time, the most important rural development programme in Rwanda was the IFAD Gikongoro Agricultural Development Project, co-financed by WFP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Rwandan Government. The programme was reformulated in 1995 and is currently funded by IFAD and WFP. FAO and the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture are responsible for its implementation.

After the bloodshed subsided, FAO, IFAD and WFP quickly restored and expanded their collaboration at the field level. FAO serves as the implementing agency for the agriculture component of the Rwanda Returnees Rehabilitation Programme, a US\$2.8 million programme funded by IFAD and executed by the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Affairs. FAO covers the procurement, transport and local distribution of agricultural and livestock inputs and evaluates overall programme performance. Since 1994, FAO/WFP Joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions have been fielded twice a year to evaluate food crop production and to estimate food import requirements, including food aid needs. FAO and WFP collaborate in transport and free distribution of seeds and agricultural implements. All three agencies jointly provide support to farmers' groups in the vital area of seed production: a WFP food-for-work programme supports upgrading of production plots, and FAO supplies inputs and establishes production agreements with groups funded by IFAD to ensure the programme framework and to provide technical advice.



*Emergency food aid to victims of conflict in Angola*

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IFAD / G. Pirozzi

JOINT

PROJECTS



IFAD / G. Pirozzi

*Agricultural rehabilitation of war-torn areas in Rwanda*

**Angola** In 1996, the three agencies jointly formulated the Angola Uíge Food Security Project, financed by trust fund resources totalling US\$4.8 million provided to the three agencies by the Government of Italy. The project aims to improve the food security and raise the incomes of 20 000 smallholders – all direct or indirect victims of war – through increased production of food crops (cassava, beans and groundnuts) and of the major cash crop, coffee. Through activities such as road rehabilitation, market support, establishment of processing facilities, extension services and support to farmer and community groups, the project puts into practice many of the strategic principles of the Angola Agricultural Rehabilitation and Options Review and the FAO Special Programme for Food Security. In addition, it builds upon and complements the ongoing IFAD-financed Northern Region Food Crop Development Project, and expands WFP's relief programmes in Angola, transforming them from emergency to development support activities.

# Working together

## Drylands

In May 1998, FAO and IFAD signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in ensuring the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in countries experiencing serious drought and desertification, particularly those in Africa.

The agreement encourages cooperation in normative work related to sustainable drylands development. The two organizations will assist countries in developing Action Programmes aimed at combating desertification, in initiating investment programmes and in undertaking technical review of CCD-related activities.



*Harvesting rice on irrigated soil in The Niger*

## Peru

In the Peruvian Andes, IFAD and WFP are working in tandem to upgrade productive capacity and agricultural practices in areas affected by years of drought, frost and floods, compounded by lengthy internal civil strife.

A WFP project seeks to redress serious ecological damage to, and loss of productive capacity in, 65 small watersheds. Some 56 600 farmers participate in rehabilitation, soil conservation and water management activities, all carried out on a food-for-work basis. Development of seed farms and funding for food production are intended to stimulate local economic growth.

Complementary to the WFP project, IFAD initiated a project to improve agricultural practices by providing extension services and training to communities in the Departments of Cajamarca, Puno, Moquegua and Tacna. In all, the project benefits some 43 000 families in 100 communities.

FAO / 17450 / A. Obouf



*Land conservation and erosion control in Peru*

## Global Information and Early Warning System

FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System for Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) has operated since 1975 as an open forum for essential information exchange on food security. Through this programme, FAO collects and analyses data for monitoring of food supply and demand, carries out Joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions with WFP and provides regular bulletins on global food crop production and markets, as well as situation reports on a regional and national basis. The major objective is to assist policy-makers in the international community, including humanitarian agencies, in planning timely interventions, using the most recent information on all aspects of food supply and demand, including early warning of imminent food crises. Through GIEWS, FAO collaborates with WFP in the analysis of emergency operations (EMOPs) and of government requests for emergency food aid, which above a certain threshold require joint FAO and WFP approval.

GIEWS collaborates with WFP through official coordination meetings and daily informal contact. In March 1997, FAO and WFP signed a technical cooperation agreement for the sharing of databases and systems in early warning and vulnerability analysis. In addition, a joint FAO/WFP working group reviews drafts of GIEWS's *Foodcrops and Shortages*, issued every two months, to ensure inclusion of all up-to-date food aid information. Collaboration with IFAD began recently – for example, the briefing and debriefing of IFAD missions to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



IFAD / R. Grossman

## Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions

FAO and WFP jointly carry out Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions in countries needing international food assistance or facing shortfalls caused by natural or man-made disasters. The two agencies have distinct responsibilities: FAO assesses food supply situations by analysing production, prices, market flows, imports and exports, as well as the capacities of national economies and governments to cope with food supply problems. WFP appraises the need for assistance where neither the coping capacities of particularly vulnerable households nor national resources are sufficient to overcome temporary or chronic food shortfalls, and determines the strategy and logistics of food aid intervention.

**Democratic People's Republic of Korea** FAO, WFP and IFAD are working together, along with national authorities, in the continuing effort to avoid a national food disaster, to achieve food security and to raise family incomes in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The three agencies have collaborated in seasonal crop assessments, in the provision of emergency food and agriculture inputs, in the rehabilitation of crops, livestock and infrastructure, and in the investigation of future investment needs.

Since December 1995, FAO and WFP have conducted eight Joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions. These assessments, the only regular UN food studies conducted in the country since the food crisis began, help FAO, IFAD and WFP to determine the impact of the food aid and crop production programmes in the country and to plan future interventions.

In December 1995, IFAD approved the first international loan for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Sericulture Development Project. Subsequently in 1997, all three agencies collaborated in designing a project to rehabilitate rice and maize production in the short term and promote livestock development overall. WFP is currently exploring innovative ways to support this project and to further strengthen its partnership with IFAD in food-for-work activities related to agricultural rehabilitation in the country.



WFP / T. Haskell

Food aid to children in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



IFAD / L. Demattis

*Terracing rainfed land for food crop development in China*

## Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System

In December 1997, representatives of 21 agencies and organizations, following up on the objectives of the World Food Summit, established an Interagency Working Group to oversee coordinated development of a Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS). While FAO plays the catalytic role, both IFAD and WFP actively participate in the Interagency Working Group. IFAD hosted the group's second meeting in April 1998, and WFP expects to host a future meeting.

IFAD uses FIVIMS products, such as information and maps on food insecurity and vulnerability in different parts of the world. WFP contributes significantly to the programme through its Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM) activities.

**China** Chinese authorities have agreed that WFP and IFAD will work jointly in all their future projects in the country. To this end, the two agencies are preparing a joint WFP/IFAD project pipeline aided by a vulnerability study using software developed by FAO and the FAO FIVIMS database for mapping purposes. Planning is in place for future collaboration on a country strategy combining the strengths and specificities of all three agencies. In 1995, preparations began for joint projects in Sichuan and Qinghai. To enhance the national capacity building process, a large network of mainly national consultants is being trained in preparation for the upcoming IFAD/WFP projects, with financial support from UNDP and the technical assistance of FAO.

WFP / T. Huskell



*Combating food insecurity and vulnerability in China*

## Controlling pests and diseases

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Collaboration between FAO and IFAD for control of animal pests and diseases in the Near East and North Africa dates back to 1989, when the New World screwworm established its presence in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. An approach involving the sterile insect technique (SIT) was tested through a pilot programme funded by IFAD with co-financing from the African Development Bank (AFDB), UNDP and FAO. FAO established the Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa (SECNA) at FAO headquarters. The striking success of the pilot programme led to a full-scale eradication programme covering the entire infested area, funded jointly by FAO, IFAD and other donors, which culminated in the June 1992 declaration that North Africa was officially screwworm free.

To extend this collaboration to confront other animal diseases of major economic importance in the region – such as foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants and brucellosis – IFAD provided a Technical Assistance Grant to FAO for the implementation of the Regional Animal Disease Surveillance and Control Network (RADISCON). The network's main objective is to monitor animal diseases, to provide accurate and timely disease information and to give early warning of, and respond to, suspected disease outbreaks in North Africa and the Near East. FAO and IFAD are discussing the extension of the early warning concept and of regional networking to other regions.

FAO / 15797 / S. Pierbattista



New World screwworm research in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

## ACC Network on Rural Development and Food Security

In April 1997 the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) established the ACC Network on Rural Development and Food Security, conceived jointly by IFAD and FAO as an innovative mechanism for World Food Summit follow-up and for support of the IFAD-led Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty. The initiative quickly attracted other partners. The international network, jointly managed by IFAD and FAO in close cooperation with WFP, today includes 20 United Nations organizations.

Country-focused and designed to respond to national needs and priorities, the network enables different actors to work together in pursuit of common goals, based on a shared commitment to promoting rural development and overcoming global food insecurity. FAO takes responsibility for the day-to-day management of the network while IFAD promotes the exchange of knowledge, lessons learned and best practices derived from evaluation findings. Progressive information technology tools such as e-mail discussion lists, an Internet site and a specialized on-line evaluation forum (EVAK) are successfully used in the ACC Network.

## Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty

IFAD, FAO and WFP are among the founding members of the Popular Coalition to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty. The coalition evolved from the 1995 Brussels Conference on Hunger and Poverty, convened by IFAD with partners including FAO, WFP, the World Bank, the European Commission and a large number of non-governmental organizations, especially from developing countries. The primary goal of this conference was to unite the public sector and civil society in poverty alleviation.

As members of the Popular Coalition's committee, the three Rome-based agencies contribute to the overall coordination of its operations, from the elaboration of the Coalition's Guiding Principles to the preparation of its Strategic Plan of Action. WFP has contributed US\$100 000 to the Coalition's budget and takes a leading role in drafting collaborative strategies for emergency preparedness, prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction in selected countries.

# Working together



IFAD / C. Nebitt

Women's agricultural cooperative in Côte d'Ivoire



FAO / 2019 / L. Dematteis

Women participating in reforestation and soil protection in Nicaragua

## Women: key participants

When civil war, drought and other disasters ravage a land, women and children suffer disproportionately from the hunger and poverty that follow. While women are the principal victims of such disasters, they are also key to the solution. FAO, WFP and IFAD are solidly committed to ensuring that women gain access to and control of assets, income-earning activities and the most basic necessity in life: food. All three agencies have concrete gender action plans in place and work together to ensure that all projects address the local needs of women.

**Burundi** In Burundi, the East Mpanda Rural Development Project, co-financed by WFP and IFAD, placed clear emphasis on the needs and concerns of local women. The overall aim of the project was to increase and diversify food crop production and improve the socio-economic conditions of all local residents. The participation of women was considered essential to the programme's overall success. To ensure that women obtained full programme benefits, the project stressed literacy training and income-earning activities for women. In addition, child care centres, a specialized women's unit, and information, education and communication (IEC) sessions geared to women were initiated.



FAO/2014/0A, Photo

*Emergency seed distribution to flood affected farmers in Somalia*

**Niger** For over 15 years, FAO and WFP have been working together in the extensive Keita Integrated Rural Development Project in The Niger, emphasizing people’s participation and the role of women in ecologically sustainable development and natural resource management. Women have had a primary role in project implementation and evaluation, for example, in on-site management, training of trainers, health and education assessment and literacy work. Local men, women and youth have given more than 12 million work-days to project activities in exchange for WFP-delivered food. The project’s other principal partners include the Governments of The Niger and Italy.

**Zambia** In Zambia, as in other countries, close cooperation and information sharing is central not only to combating hunger and poverty, but to determining the special constraints faced by women. FAO and WFP together support the IFAD-financed Southern Province Household Food Security Programme in Zambia. The IFAD loan provides the resources necessary to reach the project goal of stabilizing local food access and enhancing local crop resilience. In tandem, WFP maintains a “social safety net” of food supplies through food-for-work programmes. WFP ensures that a minimum of 25 percent of such programmes be allocated to activities that create assets directly benefiting women and that 80 percent of all food aid be distributed, where possible, to the senior woman in the household. FAO offers its technical expertise and knowledge of the project area – including information derived from a joint FAO/IFAD study of women’s farming methods and tools in the region.



FAO / 20172 / G. Diana

*Ensuring food availability through improved farming techniques in Zambia*



WFP / G. Kirch



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