

# I. FNS-REPRO - BUILDING FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE IN PROTRACTED CRISIS / FRAGILE SETTINGS

ACTION AREA	FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE
SOLUTION CLUSTER	HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE (HDP) NEXUS
THEMATIC AREA	HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS
SUBMITTED BY	FAO, WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY, THE NETHERLANDS, NGOS

## WHAT IS THE RISK, SHOCK, STRESS THAT THE SOLUTION IS TRYING TO ADDRESS?

This solution proposes that a food systems resilience approach including an enabling environment in the aid architecture should be operationalized specifically for the context of protracted crisis situations. These situations face environmental, political as well as socio-economic shocks to food systems. Populations in these contexts often face multiple overlapping crises including conflict, combined with weak governance structures and intervention mechanisms, often exacerbated by environmental degradation and climate change. The reason why operationalization specifically for these contexts is necessary is because here recurring shocks and stresses are no longer the 'exception' but have become 'normalcy' resulting in prolonged food insecurity. Recurrent shocks and stresses have been ongoing for years and are expected to continue intermittently for years to come. Resilience and risk management strategies of communities have already adapted to these shocks, and thereby also the food systems which they created and sustain. Existing strategies and capacities provide an important entry-point for improving required capacities to mitigate negative impacts and maintain or improve on food security outcomes. The challenge is to improve the resilience capacities of these communities through a Food System Resilience approach without compromising their currently adapted (resilient) livelihood strategies - to result in food systems that deliver better food and nutrition security outcomes for populations despite facing recurring shocks and stressors and their negative impacts on livelihoods and food insecurity.

## HOW DOES THE SOLUTION IMPROVE OR ENHANCE RESILIENCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS?

A number of organizations including FAO, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen Economic Research, Netherlands Food Partnership, Cordaid, ZOA, CARE have created a number of products (tools, academic paper, position paper, technical paper) that can help operationalize a food systems resilience approach for improved food & nutrition security outcomes in protracted crisis situations.

The FNS-REPRO programme (Dutch government funded) programme operating in the Horn of Africa is currently, through FAO/implementing partners/universities/knowledge-practice networks, implementing a food systems resilience approach and its learning component is a central link that binds all these organizations together in the effort to operationalize a food systems resilience approach for protracted crisis situations for improved food & nutrition security outcomes.

The solutions conceptualise and operationalise evidence-based and scalable interventions that build food system resilience for improved FNS outcomes in protracted crisis situations that have significant numbers of people in food crisis (IPC3), food emergency (IPC) and famine (IPC 5).

Moreover, there is recently a strong interest, through academic channels, in the idea of taking a food system approach to resilience building resulting in significant, and vastly increasing, number of publications and reports.

This solution improves food systems resilience in the following ways:

1. By contributing innovative tools, such as a quantitative Resilience Baseline (RIMA), in-depth multi-dimensional context analysis and Food / Seed System Resilience Assessment Tool (FoSRA / SSRA) enabling evidence-based programming to strengthen food system resilience and improved food and nutrition security outcomes. - By FAO and Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation.
2. By contributing an academic paper on Food System Resilience (by Wageningen Economic Research – WecR).
3. By contributing a position paper on Food Systems Resilience in Protracted Crisis situations that uses lessons from programmes using integrated resilience approaches in protracted crisis situations to highlight necessary changes in the aid architecture to effectively build food systems resilience. (by WCDI- Netherlands Food Partnership-WECR and two Communities of Practice that include ZOA, CARE, Cordaid).
4. By contributing a technical paper on Seed System Resilience Assessments (by the FNS-REPRO South Sudan team - FAO South-Sudan, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, ISSD Africa).
5. By designing and implementing a food systems resilience approach in practice (implemented by FNS-REPRO; FAO & Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation and partners) that fits with all four objectives of Action Track 5:

#### Objective 1: Context specific & systemic approach

- Taking a multi-year area/livelihoods based approach (taking into account local circumstances & dynamics including context specific set of shocks & stressors), with deliberate targeting of women and youth.
- Taking a food system approach with building resilience as a central objective.
- Focus on value chains central to strengthening resilience in local food system performance.
- Combining humanitarian relief, development & peace responsive actions along the HDP Nexus.
- Using a flexible and adaptive programming approach as required in volatile and dynamic contexts.

#### Objective 2: Participation, co-creation & Co-Governance

- Participating/working with relevant local actors and stakeholders including local governance structures, UN, NGOs, private sector, knowledge and research institutes, local communities.
- Co-creating an understanding of how food systems work, are impacted by shocks and stressors and produce Food and Nutrition Outcomes by undertaking joint assessments. Tools to do this include: Resilience Baseline (RIMA); multi-disciplinary context analysis (value chains, natural resources, conflict and gender assessments), and a Food System Resilience Assessment Tool.
- Developing FSR Pathways enabling partners and stakeholders to make coordinated and well-informed decisions for evidence-based FSR programming.
- Governance of the FSR is based on evidence based programming and the facilitation of a learning agenda for adaptive programme management.

#### Objective 3: Human Resilience & Empowerment

- FSR pathways enable targeted investment to strengthen or develop new resilience capacities to increase the capacity of vulnerable populations to better manage the impact of shocks and stressors.
- Ensuring national and local ownership and leadership.
- Training, capacity development and empowerment are integral part of the FSR Pathways.

#### Objective 4: Strengthen Foundation, Build Capacities

- Aiming for sustained impact through results- and evidence-based programming
- Capacity development/strengthening on conflict-sensitive programming and implementation

- FNS-REPRO engages with relevant local and national actors to promote food system resilience programming. Through its Learning Agenda it works with partners on Learning Journeys addressing critical issues in building FSR
- FNS-REPRO, through the Dutch government funded NUFFIC programme, invests in strengthening the capacity of Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Training and Education – HE/TVET) to build local capacities to address critical challenges in building food system resilience.

We propose for this game changing solution to be positioned within AT5 s follows: Food System Resilience; Integrative Nexus Approaches 'Conflict Torn Food Systems & Fragile Settings - HDP Nexus. Under the 'Global Network Against Food Crises as innovative Co-ordinating Mechanisms in Conflict-Torn Food Systems & Fragile Settings using the HDP Nexus Approach'. Proposed title: Approach: Building Food System Resilience in Protracted Crisis / Fragile Settings for improved FNS outcomes.

### IS THE SOLUTION RELEVANT TO BUILDING FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE?

Anticipate shocks/risks/stress and/or reduce vulnerability, Manage risks, Prevent (reduce exposure), Absorb, respond/cope, Adapt to shock-affected scenarios and evolving risk scenarios, Transform the Food System when the current Food System is no longer sustainable

### IN WHAT REALMS OF INTERVENTION IS THE SOLUTION DESIGNED TO ACT ON RESILIENCE?

Individual, Household, Community, Land/sea-scape, Institutional

### WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT WOULD PUT THIS ACTION INTO PLACE?

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses, etc.), Civil (NGOs, etc.), Farmers, Scientists

### WHAT IS THE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THIS IDEA? DOES THE IDEA HAVE ANY MEMBER STATES OR POLITICAL INTERESTS? ARE THERE ANY STAKEHOLDERS WORKING ON IT?

FNS-REPRO is funded by the Dutch government, who sees this as a way to implement UN Security Council Resolution 2417 on Hunger and Conflict. This UN Security Council Resolution not only condemns the creation of food insecurity in times of conflict but also calls upon the international community to come up with new and innovative forms of engagement to reduce the number of hungry people - particularly in protracted crisis contexts. FNS-REPRO is also a key part of the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNFAC), founded by the EU, FAO and WFP in 2016.

The FNS-REPRO intervention strategy has been deliberately aligned with the GNAFC dimensions, enabling the programme to contribute to the Network's efforts to move beyond evidence towards more coherent coordinated strategic investments along the HDP nexus. FNS-REPRO contributes to:

- Understanding food crises – Generating evidence-based information & analysis
- Strategic investments in food and nutrition security – Leveraging FNS-REPRO investments to prepare, prevent and respond to food crises
- Going beyond food – Fostering political uptake and functional coordination across clusters/sectors to address other dimensions driving the food security crisis scenarios.
- The FNS-REPRO research agenda is also in line with the research agenda of the Food Security Information Network (FSIN).

## IS THE SOLUTION APPLICABLE AT GLOBAL LEVEL, OR SPECIFIC CONTEXTS & PARTICULAR COUNTRIES?

This solution is applicable in specific contexts: countries facing protracted crisis situations. In particular for the countries mentioned in the 2020 Global Report on Food Crises (by FSIN and the GNAFC).

## WHAT ARE THE KEY ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS THIS SOLUTION?

1. A food systems resilience approach must be operationalized specifically for protracted crisis situations
2. The aid architecture must be adapted accordingly (enable more flexible/adaptive programming, de-silo the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus, support co-creation of food systems resilience goals with local communities, support evidence-based working and learning in programming, see also the products discussed earlier)

## ARE THERE ANY FINANCIAL SOURCES/FUNDS THAT IS SUPPORTING THIS IDEA?

The USD 28M FNS-REPRO programme is funded by the Dutch government, including its Communities of Practice that work together with the Netherlands Food Partnership Community of Practice, also funded by the Dutch government.

## HOW DOES THIS SOLUTION CONTRIBUTE TO (A) EMPOWER WOMEN AND COMBAT GENDER INEQUALITIES, AND (B) THE FULFILMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND THE RIGHT TO WATER, (C) MAKE USE OF INNOVATIONS (TECHNOLOGIES, INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES)?

- A. By facilitating the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into its strategy and activities, making them gender responsive and contributing to achieving sustainable socio-economic development even in contexts of protracted crises. A greater inclusiveness in involving both men and women in participation, consultations and decision-making in the implementation contributes to ownership, include culturally acceptable initiatives and use of local knowledge as well as narrow the gender divergence gap.
- B. By advocating for a specific approach that enables better food and nutrition security outcomes of food systems in protracted crisis situations it contributes to the right to food.
- C. By implementing a learning agenda in the FNS REPRO programme and working together with key Communities of Practice the current initiatives contribute to innovation in processes and institutions.