

40. FINANCE FOR FOOD (F4F) PROGRAMME

ACTION AREA	UNIVERSAL FOOD ACCESS TO BUILD RESILIENCE
SOLUTION CLUSTER	ENHANCE LOCAL PRODUCTION FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION
THEMATIC AREA	INCREASING WOMEN'S AGENCY FOR RESILIENCE THROUGH ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
SUBMITTED BY	UNCDF

WHAT PROBLEM IS THE SOLUTION TRYING TO ADDRESS?

Lack of Local Food System governance
Misfitting of institutional capacity and financing mechanism for food security soft and hard investments

WHAT, IN BRIEF, IS THE SOLUTION?

Enhancing the role of Local Governments in relaying food security national policies and mobilizing finance to improve and strengthen Local Food Systems governance

WHAT WAS/ WERE THE SOURCE(S) FROM WHICH THIS SOLUTION EMERGED?

In West and Central Africa, UNCDF's Finance for Food (F4F) programme supported local public investments by providing strategic financing in the form of grants, as well as advisory services and capacity building support to local governments. This flexible toolkit of instruments allows UNCDF to customize its interventions to specific situations and conditions, and maximizing impacts.

This UNCDF approach and intervention logic is to provide funding through Local Development Funds to LGs with special focus on capacity building of local actors and support to investment planning with a Food Security and Nutrition lens, with special attention to coordinate strategies to address food insecurity, gender and climate change

WHY IS ADDRESSING THAT PROBLEM IMPORTANT FOR ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF YOUR WORKING GROUP?

Local Governments are not sufficiently assuming the responsibility to promote Food and Nutrition Security neither by relaying national policies nor by having necessary fiscal transfer to implement food security infrastructure. The concept of Local Food System provides a useful framework to understanding the role of Local governance in supporting Food and Nutrition Security. Local Food System improving mechanism should rely on key local stakeholders to increase the contribution of territorial development through adequate public and PPP financing of soft and hard food security investments

HOW CAN THIS SOLUTION ADDRESS THAT PROBLEM?

Due to the decentralization process, LGs have increasing responsibilities in planning, implementing and supervising local development in general and they have influence on the land and resource tenure issues. Furthermore LGs are encouraged to support local organization and stakeholders dialogue and increasingly, LGs are called to incorporate food and nutrition security within the local development planning, and to establish specific mechanisms to coordinate, implement and monitor corresponding interventions.

So, local authorities must be in a position to identify the most effective actions and investments to foster Food and Nutrition Security in a sustainable way, as well as to face crisis situations. It is also essential that LG recognize the importance of their role and grasp the full spectrum of possible mechanisms available to them with which they can mitigate food insecurity and strengthen the four pillars of food security, beyond the focus on crisis situations.

In order to play this most important role, LGs must tackle the lack of funding, capacities and human resources. Therefore they must be equipped with the capacity to analyse food security issues, identify appropriate interventions, develop partnerships and policies, monitor and evaluate, coordinate local plans etc... and the need skills in personnel and funding to manage interventions, an appropriate legal and institutional framework, and an enabling policy and institutional environment.

UNCDF and partners interventions will be to encourage to create a Food Security Fund in the form of investment capital to improve the governance of LFS to help building and enhancing their institutional capacities, increase the supply of infrastructure and efficient and sustainable service delivery of food and nutrition security investments. The framework and of the interventions will be based on the Local Development Fund results chain focused on building Local Food System by improving institutional, biophysical, socio-cultural and technological environment.

The added value and major assumptions in this LFS building are based on the following actions:

- The development of local institutions capable of relaying and downscaling food security national policies to the local level.
- The development of multi stakeholders local governance of food security through an organic integration of national extension services, NGOs, the private sector and local communities.
- The development of institutional mechanisms of consultation and capacity building of LGs and Municipalities that promotes innovative financing for policies and projects that can bring viable, efficient and concerted solutions to the food security problems.

WHY DOES THIS SOLUTION ALIGN TO THE DEFINITION AND CRITERIA FOR A 'GAME CHANGING SOLUTION' DEVELOPED BY THE SUMMIT?

Governance and mostly local level of governance become critical to implement food security policies and the 5 ATs of the UNFSS agree to focus on LFS development. **Enhancing governance of Local Food System: Promotion of Local Food Security Fund** will be a game changing solution that is effective and has existing empirical evidence and a pilot-level evidence of feasibility and plausibility. It has been tested in Burundi, Mali, Niger, Mozambique and Benin under the partnership of UNCDF and Belgian Fund For Food Security.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT AND/OR LIKELY POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THIS IDEA

The approach has been implemented as Enhancing intuitional and financial capacity of LGs to plan and invest in food security in Benin, Niger, Mali, Mozambique and Burundi and need to be brought to scale in the framework of the UNFSS as main recommendation way forward.

ARE THERE CERTAIN CONTEXTS FOR WHICH THIS SOLUTION IS PARTICULARLY WELL SUITED, OR, CONVERSELY, CONTEXTS FOR WHICH IT IS NOT WELL-SUITED AT ALL.

The past and current projects, implemented jointly with the Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS) show that addressing food security requires a stronger involvement of local actors, including local authorities, producers, farming organisations and rural households. The local level is of particular relevance in all LDCs and graduated countries where there are climate risk, lack of food production opportunities, transport links and general infrastructure. A Local Food Systems (LFS) approach, has been implemented and revealed the need of having a broad range of stakeholders and funding opportunities.

This approach can fit to all contexts including, decentralization, post conflict and stabilization where the support to Local authorities are adjustable

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE KEY ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS THIS SOLUTION?

Key actions for success of the solutions are:

- Public policies for enabling environment
- Economic leverages with diversified source of funding to establish budget support to LGs for planning and investing in food security infrastructure
- Harmony of local stakeholders including Civil society organizations, Government Extension services in Agriculture, water, environment, health etc..., LG authorities, local private sector (women and youth in the food value chains)

ANY OTHER REMARKS OR COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE REFLECTED IN AT5'S REPORT OUT ON 'GAME CHANGING' SOLUTIONS

This solution can switch to simple and regular context of decentralized governance, post crisis/stabilization.