



OUR EXPERTISE FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS



FIGHTING AGAINST HUNGER

Hunger has disastrous consequences on people's health and negative impacts on economic growth, political stability and development. Climate change, growth of the world population, conflicts, growing economic inequalities and increased migrations further threaten the food security worldwide. The mandate of Action Against Hunger is to eradicate hunger worldwide in an integral, lasting and effective way. Action Against Hunger promotes the sustainable access to nutritious diets, particularly for women and young children. The main objectives of the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) sector are (1) to respond at scale and timely to humanitarian crises, through emergency and recovery interventions that save lives and livelihoods and (2) to address the underlying and basic causes of hunger by providing sustainable livelihoods solutions. To achieve this, Action Against Hunger:

- ▶ Delivers assistance to populations in need and engages actively in resilience-building
- ▶ Advocates for nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food system policies
- ▶ Engages into evidence generation and research works to improve both effectiveness and efficiency.

Integrated programming together with health, mental health, care practices, nutrition and water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) interventions aims to address the various causal factors of undernutrition. Action Against Hunger often designs and implements the assistance interventions in partnerships with NGOs, civil society organizations and local authorities to maximize the impacts and develop innovations.

ENGAGEMENT OF QUALITY

Action Against Hunger is recognized worldwide for its strong technical expertise. It covers an impressive range of interventions, and guarantees that solutions are appropriate to local conditions and with the highest quality standards. Action Against Hunger understands that capacity-building of our staff and partners is critical to quality interventions, and thus offers a range of internal training opportunities to new staff. The Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning system ensures corrective measures where necessary, transparent reporting, as well as the continuous improvement of our actions. Action Against Hunger is able to draw evidence of impactful and cost-effective approaches and actions. Action Against Hunger is reliable for its liaison with the most renowned research institutes and academia, which help it ensure strong research protocols and uptake of the research outcomes. In addition, the "Foundation for research and innovation" established in 2013 contributes to the global scientific research agenda, awarding grants to partners involved in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

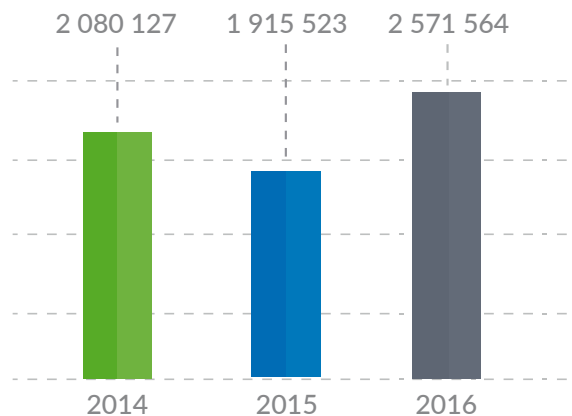


Figure 1 - Number of beneficiaries of FSL programs per year

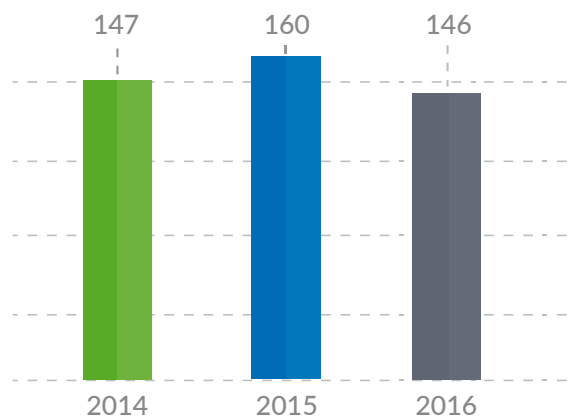


Figure 2 - Number of FSL programs per year

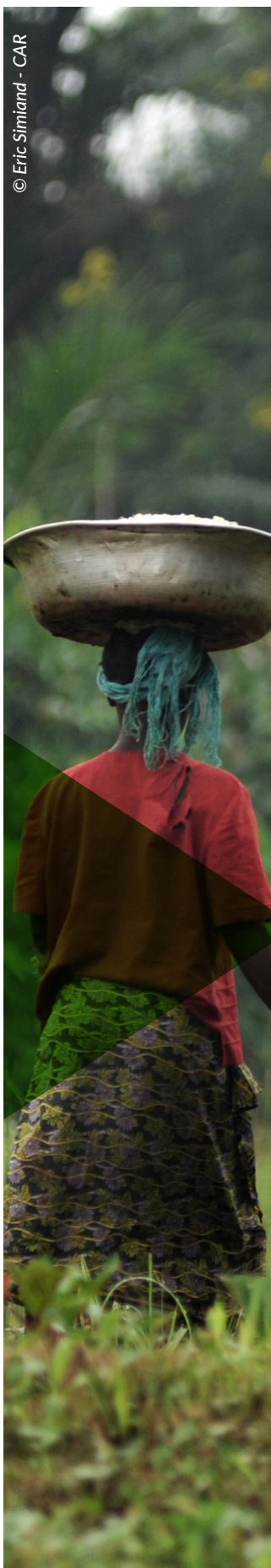
GENDER

Action Against Hunger implements programs that explicitly intend to improve the nutritional status of children less than 5 years of age, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women. These groups are usually the final beneficiaries of our interventions; however by applying a gender-sensitive approach, Action Against Hunger is also able to involve boys, elders, and men within households and communities to achieve greater effectiveness. The FSL sector systematically identifies the specific needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of boys, girls, men and women to respond adequately in its interventions while enhancing the decision-making power of women.

COORDINATION

Action Against Hunger contributes to many coordination initiatives at local and international levels. Our agency is well engaged into the cluster system, co-leading several food security country clusters while being a member of the Strategic Advisory Group of the global food security cluster and various global working groups. In addition, Action Against Hunger is active in the global and national coordination around cash-based programming. It engages strongly in the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), in the Cash Capacity scheme (CashCap), as well as in the many Cash and Market working groups at national and global levels. Action Against Hunger is also a long-standing and active participant in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) at national and regional levels, and has joined the multi-agency global partnership to contribute to the improvement of surveillance and early warning systems. In addition, our agency is a key player in the implementation of the Harmonized Framework (Cadre Harmonisé) initiated in 2000 in West Africa. Furthermore, Action against Hunger also works closely with other NGOs to develop and implement the Household Economic Analysis. We are committed to working with governments, civil society, humanitarian and development agencies, and private sector to build consensus, capacities and resources.



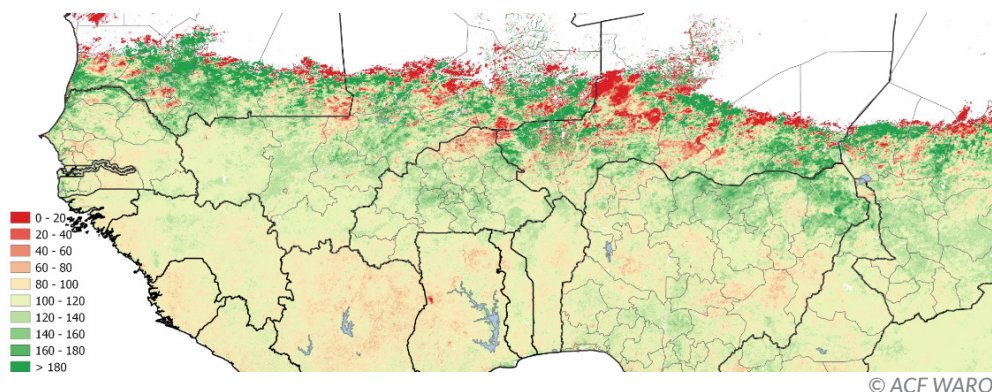


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TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS

SURVEILLANCE

At field level, Action Against Hunger implements Early Warning Systems (EWS) to produce timely information on the risks of a disaster and disseminates information to trigger early action. Action Against Hunger develops comprehensive and integrated surveillance systems that usually combine food security, livelihoods, nutrition, health, climatic and WASH data. In 2016, 58 projects of Action Against Hunger included a surveillance mechanism, documenting hazards and the factors of vulnerability and their outcomes through periodic monitoring of sentinel sites. The further objectives are to reinforce local authorities in establishing contingency plans and to contribute to the implementation of contingency plans. FSL surveillance is particularly implemented in vulnerable areas facing climate variability and extreme events.



BURKINA FASO LISTENING POST PROJECT

Following the food price crisis of 2008 and the lack of information concerning the impacts of this crisis, Action against Hunger decided to implement a surveillance system to estimate the nutritional and food security needs of the population in two provinces in Burkina Faso: Tapoa and Gnagna. The system consists of the monthly collection of a set of key nutrition, food and water-related indicators. Data are collected in the markets and from sentinel households, based on a targeting of children between 6 and 24 months. Results and warnings are disseminated through monthly

reports. The Listening Post Project permits to strengthen the existing warning systems and to guide national and local policymakers involved in nutrition security, including Ministries, Regional Directions, International and Local NGOs, etc. In addition, the accumulation of multi-annual data offers valuable opportunities for the in-depth analysis of nutrition security trends, seasonality and drivers. The project is a successful pilot and has already been replicated by other NGOs in other provinces of Burkina Faso.

PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Nowadays, conflicts are still driving millions of people into hunger, and climate change is leading to more frequent and stronger hazards. In response, Action Against Hunger is intervening on both rapid and slow onset crises. The objective of such interventions is to ensure that affected populations receive food that is nutritious enough to cover the dietary needs for a healthy life, and are able to protect their critical livelihood assets. Thanks to dedicated resources, protocols and pre-agreements, Action Against Hunger is able to scale up its activities and cover the most pressing needs. It can rely on (1) emergency pools, (2) international contingency stocks, (3) an operating protocol based on SPHERE standards, and (4) emergency preparedness and response plans ready to be applied on the ground.

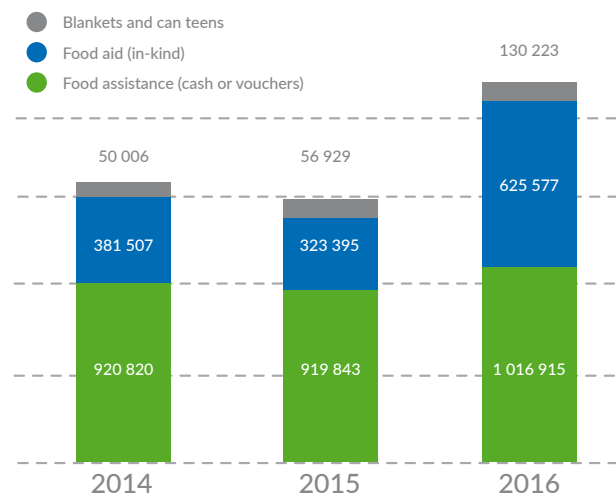


Figure 3 - Number of beneficiaries of food assistance, food aid and blankets / canteens

Interventions are designed to fit the specific contexts and thus flexibility is critical as situations may evolve quickly. Action Against Hunger has a vast experience managing general and targeted food distributions, canteens and blanket supplementary feeding programs in acute and protracted crises. Besides, cash transfers, conditional or not, restricted or not, have been implemented for over 25 years. Action Against Hunger could therefore develop a unique expertise in cash-based interventions, through cash or vouchers, using various delivery mechanisms. The FSL sector also distributes emergency shelter, hygiene items, cooking materials, etc. within 48 hours. Action Against Hunger increasingly resorts to multi-purpose cash assistance to cover multi-sectoral needs, wherever markets are functioning. Action Against Hunger also runs regular Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) programs in CAR, Yemen, DRC, Afghanistan working in collaboration with UNICEF, WFP and ECHO. Besides, for Action Against Hunger, the early recovery approach during and immediately after emergencies, is a key element to support peoples' self-sufficiency and protect their livelihoods.

NIGERIA, BORNO STATE RESPONSE TO MALNUTRITION DUE TO THE BOKO HARAM CRISIS

Since 2009, the conflict between the militant group Boko Haram and the Nigerian government forces have impacted 14.8 million people, leaving 7 million in need of humanitarian assistance, 3.9 million in food insecurity and 2.2 million people displaced. In July 2016, 250 000 children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Borno State (UNICEF, 2016), in the Northeast of the country. The Borno State also hosts most internally displaced persons. Prior to the conflict, this area was already suffering from high malnutrition rates and insufficient access to basic services.

In August 2016, Action against Hunger's emergency pool was deployed to support the teams already on the field and to develop and launch an emergency response in the newly liberated city of Monguno. Within 3 weeks, Action Against Hunger delivered food aid assistance to 16 000 individuals, alongside non-food items (shelter kits and hygiene kits). In the meantime, nutrition teams were treating populations suffering from acute undernutrition through two mobile clinics. Action against Hunger was one of the first actors to intervene in this locality.



AGRO-PASTORAL INTERVENTIONS

80% of people that experience hunger are living in rural areas, out of which 2/3 are small-scale farmers. As Action Against Hunger operates in countries where the agricultural sector is essential for the local economy, agricultural programs constitute a major part of the organization's FSL activities. These programmes are implemented both in rural and urban contexts. Their overarching goal is to allow populations to meet their own food needs either through self-production and/or by increasing incomes by boosting sustainable agriculture. Action Against Hunger promotes an agriculture that is nutrition-sensitive, and considers agro-ecology as the best agricultural approach to achieve nutrition and food security while addressing environmental challenges. Our expertise in agriculture covers a broad range of activities from crop and animal production, to post-harvest management, food processing, inclusive marketing, and community-based natural resources management. Capacity building of local partners and small-scale farmers are central to any intervention. The intervention consists in enhancing skills of communities on good nutrition, providing technical and business management training, promoting farmers field exchange, etc. Action Against Hunger has also developed positive experiences of technical assistance to governments, particularly to Ministries of Agriculture.

Action Against Hunger invests in research activities regarding sustainable agriculture and subsequent nutrition sensitive value chains. Most research activities consider as a priority the nexus between agriculture, food security and nutrition. For example, the organization conducted a project in Zimbabwe between 2014 and 2017 on post-harvest management to reduce aflatoxin contamination on production and exposure to humans.

SAHELIAN COUNTRIES HEALTH GARDENS

The objective of these gardens is to fight against malnutrition by combining food security programming with the provision of nutrition education, healthcare and water and sanitation facilities. This integrated and multi-sectoral approach is based on (1) the support to the development of vegetable gardens according to agro-ecological practices (use of organic fertilizers, promotion of crop rotation and association, sustainable water management, etc.) both for family consumption and for sales, (2) the facilitation of sensitization and education sessions on essential nutrition practices (breastfeeding, hygiene, food and nutrition) and (3) to culinary demonstrations for balanced recipes based on the gardens' produces and usual local food crops .

The main targeted beneficiaries are women not only because of their role in the feeding and care of their children, but also because they are the ones traditionally involved in vegetables production.

To avoid any barrier that could prevent the achievement of nutrition outcomes, Action Against Hunger takes several measures: construction of multi-use water points, set-up of child-care centres, attention to women workload, etc.

The implementation of the Health Gardens had positive impacts: better availability of fresh products at household and market levels, improvement of the food diversity, increase of the knowledge of malnutrition causes, and improvement of the nutritional situation of children.



SIERRA LEONE POST-EBOLA

Between 2014 and 2015, Sierra Leone was plagued with an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak. A total of 8,704 people were infected, resulting in 3,589 deaths all over the country (Sierra Leone Ministry of Health). The EVD outbreak took its toll on the country, affecting national development as well as the population's food security and livelihood status.

The outbreak impeded all sectors of the economy, including income generating activities, like petty trading, due to stigmatization, health impairment and material loss of households' goods. Action against Hunger implemented a livelihood support project for 9 communities in Western Area (urban and peri-urban settlements).

The project targeted 300 households directly affected by EVD (and particularly households with EVD survivors). Main activities included (1) the training of beneficiaries in order to improve their skills on business planning and management, including business plan development, entrepreneurship, record keeping, financial management and negotiation, and (2) the provision of the necessary items and equipment to develop IGAs, through direct distribution or through conditional cash transfers. The project succeeded in increasing households' income by 120% and in improving the maintenance of productive assets among beneficiaries. Towards the end of the project, households' food security status was far better than when the project started.



LIVELIHOODS DEVELOPMENTS

Action Against Hunger aims at helping people out of poverty, mostly by improving their access to food and health, other basic services, as well as helps them achieve an increased well-being. Concrete interventions are context specific and needs-based. They can include the restoration of urban or rural livelihoods after a shock or the adaptation of livelihoods to a changing context in order to increase people's resilience. Additionally, supporting livelihoods is likely to foster the development of local economy and markets, and improve the availability and affordability of essential goods, such as nutritious foods. The support to local urban and rural markets is central to these programs since populations depend on formal and informal markets to sell goods, offer labor, finance their activities and access basic services. Action Against Hunger also supports the local economy and markets within and outside camps-setting where required to improve the socio-economic situation of displaced and refugee populations, and at the same time it considers the needs of local host communities.

Action Against Hunger offers a range of livelihoods support interventions, including Income Generating Activities (IGA), Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA), social inclusion, employment promotion and inclusive value-chains. VSLA are often the sole mechanisms through which the poor fringe

of the populations can save money, liaise with others for ideas and motivation for investing in productive and income generating activities and access capital when needed. VSLAs propose a simple, informal, savings and loan institution, which is managed at community level. Action Against Hunger also leads projects aiming at improving the employability of populations at risk of economic and social exclusion. Action Against Hunger enhances entrepreneurial to psychosocial capacities to encourage business ventures and effective job search.

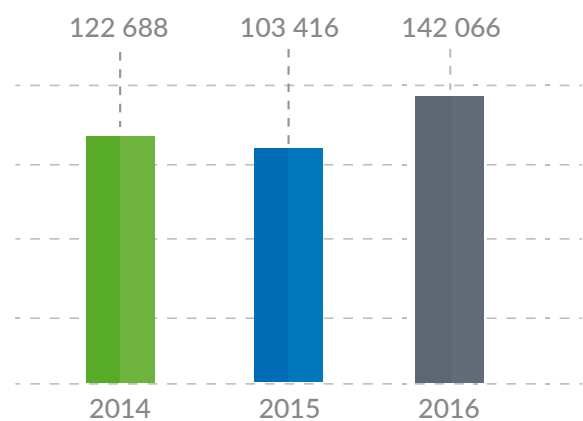


Figure 4 - Number of beneficiaries of IGAs and VSLAs

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS

Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs) are increasingly recognized as an essential tool to meet the population's food, livelihoods and other basic needs. Actions against Hunger's CBIs are expected to improve the food and nutrition security of the recipients and their relatives. They support an immediate increase in purchasing power, enabling beneficiaries to cover their basic needs and protect their livelihood assets. CBIs also address longer-term issues, whenever linked with social protection and safety net programs. CBIs encompass an impressive diversity of interventions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. Action Against Hunger promotes multi-purpose CBI, to enable beneficiaries to meet their needs with flexibility, autonomy and dignity. Action Against Hunger promotes the combination of cash with other type of activities to maximize the nutritional impact of the transfers. Action Against Hunger implements social, technological, markets and security assessments, and goes through a thorough analytical process to guarantee the relevance and feasibility of the selected approach. Each single CBI is closely monitored to avoid fraud, protection issues and other potential adverse effects such as inflation, conflict, misappropriation and exclusion.

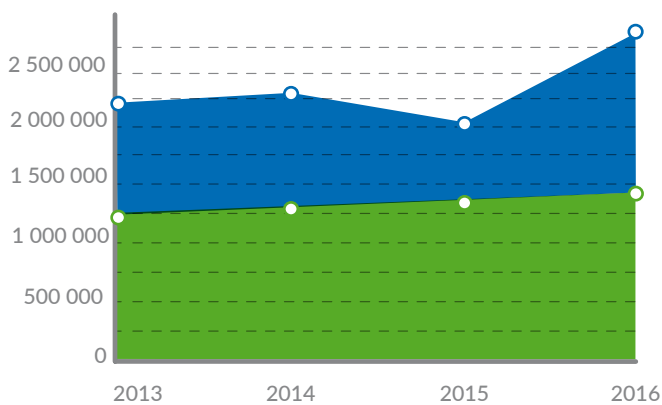


Figure 5 - Proportion of CBI beneficiaries over all FSL beneficiaries



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LEBANON, SYRIAN BORDER

IMPROVED ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL GOODS IN HARD TO REACH AREAS

Lebanon is hosting over 1 million Syrian refugees within its borders. The protracted displacement, restrictions from the government and a shrinking humanitarian space have led to increasing levels of vulnerability, negative coping mechanism and reduced mobility for refugees within the country. In areas near the Syrian border, Action Against Hunger implements a project aimed at mitigating the existing constraints surrounding access to both food (both dry and fresh) and non-food items (such as hygiene, medicine, clothing and fuel) and the subsequent negative mechanisms utilized by the refugees. Action Against Hunger provides direct, unconditional and multipurpose cash transfer support to allow the most vulnerable Syrian refugees and extremely poor Lebanese households living in hard-to-reach areas, to meet their basic needs. Action Against Hunger is using the Kit for Autonomous Cash transfer in Humanitarian Emergencies (KACHE) system, which allows e-transfers through an emergency tool kit composed by an online platform, hand-held terminals and smart cards.

BANGLADESH

ELECTRONIC MONEY TRANSFER

In Bangladesh, Action Against Hunger provided humanitarian assistance to flood-affected communities in 2015 and 2016, using either manual cash and electronic money transfers, through mobile money wallet. They focused on disaster risk mitigation and emergency relief, targeting at 3,634 recipients from Satkhira and Cox's Bazar districts. The projects involved local partners from the civil society (Shushilan, Mukti) and from money service providers (Dutch Bangla Bank, bKash). The Electronic Cash Transfer Learning Action Network (ELAN) selected these two Action Against Hunger's projects to build an evidence base around connecting emergency electronic transfer recipients with additional financial services. The ELAN launched this research to understand which barriers and enabling factors influence the uptake and potential use of mobile money introduced during a humanitarian assistance program. Thanks to solid monitoring systems and reliable data management, Action Against Hunger is approached by other institutions and to engage into their researches. The outputs of this specific case study are accessible from the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) website.

ADVOCACY

Food security and livelihoods advocacy is one of Action Against Hunger’s instrumental type of interventions, alongside direct assistance to populations in need and operational research actions. Our advocacy programming is evidence-based: it makes the most of the long-standing field experiences and research actions to support our shared vision of a world without hunger. Our goal is to progress to eradication of hunger by 2030 as stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2).

OUR POSITION

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER PROMOTES

- ▶ The realization of the Right to Food;
- ▶ The coherence of agricultural investment, trade policies and initiatives with the objective of ensuring food and nutrition security for all;
- ▶ Agro-ecology and nutrition-sensitive agriculture;
- ▶ Greater accountability and transparency of public and private investments in agriculture;
- ▶ Climate change adaptation that benefits small scale farmers and the most vulnerable.

COORDINATION, TARGETS AND ALLIES

- Action Against Hunger is strongly involved in the international governance of Food security. We are an active member of the Committee for the Food Security (CFS), of G7 FSL CSO working groups, of the Scaling-Up Nutrition movement, of the Trans-Atlantic Food Assistance Dialogue, and of the United Nations convention on climate change, etc.);
- Our food security advocacy activities target international and regional bodies, institutional donors, national governments, and local civil societies to foster lasting changes to improve the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable people;
- In order to do so, we work closely with other NGO’s (Oxfam, CCFD etc.), United Nations Organizations (mostly FAO and WFP) and national and regional networks of producers and civil society organizations.





AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

NUTRITION SENSITIVE AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

In West Africa, agriculture is the main source of food, nutrients and incomes; it employs 65% of the labor force. Through income generation, employment, food production, processing and consumption, agriculture has a crucial role to play in overcoming the different forms of malnutrition in West Africa. In 2005, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) elaborated its first Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP), catalyzing each of the 15 West African States to develop their own National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP). Those documents have been in a process of review since 2016. Action against Hunger has worked with other stakeholders (the SUN movement for example) to ensure nutrition objectives are integrated in those second-generation plans. Thanks to the advocacy work of Action against Hunger, the new version of the RAIP released in 2016 is relatively nutrition-sensitive and includes nutrition as a key challenge for the agricultural development of West Africa. Action against Hunger will keep advocating, alongside with the FAO, the SUN movement, producer organizations and other civil society allies, for National Agricultural Investment Plans in Burkina Faso, Senegal or Sierra Leone to better integrate nutrition. To this end, we are supporting and strengthening the advocacy capacities of the national civil society organizations, including food producer organizations.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

NUTRITION-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

For the last decade, social protection was raised in the agenda of international stakeholders and governments as a major framework to address poverty and inequalities. Action Against Hunger believes that social protection has a genuine potential to fight hunger and malnutrition. Since 2013, the Kore Lavi project supports the Government of Haiti, through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, in developing a nutrition-sensitive social protection system. It is being implemented by a consortium of partners that includes Action Against Hunger. Nutrition-sensitive and shock responsive social protection is a priority area of work for Action Against Hunger. Activities consist of supporting the development of social protection policies and strategies capable of addressing nutrition while being flexible in time of crises, conducting research projects and studies to fill evidence gaps, implementing field programs when needed, as well as advocacy interventions.

IMPROVED VALUE CHAINS FOR NUTRITION

A value chain approach proved effective to promoting agriculture development and generating additional incomes and economic value along the chain. The approach also has the potential, yet untapped, to contribute to the reduction and prevention of undernutrition. Value-chains can be designed to deliver nutritious and safe food to vulnerable populations affected by or at risk of undernutrition. Action Against Hunger has developed a global partnership with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to jointly develop a strong expertise about a value-chain approach for improved nutrition.

KIT FOR AUTONOMOUS CASH TRANSFER IN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES (KACHE)

The demands of transferring money to large numbers of recipients as well as the level of accountability required for cash transfer have led humanitarian actors to look for technological innovations that could benefit humanitarian programming. Yet, lack of e-payment and monitoring infrastructures is limiting drastically the scaling up and potential use of this approach, especially in emergency response. KACHE has been developed by Action Against Hunger to answer these challenges. So far the KACHE has been implemented in five countries, and the output is positive. Action Against Hunger plans to multiply projects that are supported by the KACHE system.

URBAN INTERVENTIONS

In 2050, 66% of the global population will be living in urban areas (UN World Urbanization Prospect, 2014). Urban programming raises new challenges as current assessment tools, population needs, modalities of intervention and coordination mechanisms only partially apply to populated urban areas. The latter are briefly characterized by higher market dependency, poor solidarity mechanisms, higher living expenses, increased violence and insecurity. Action Against Hunger has already developed a strong expertise on urban environments, through sound field programming and the development of assessment tools in urban contexts since 2010. In the years to come, Action Against Hunger will increasingly operate in urban areas and slums.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMMING

Climate change is a threat multiplier of achieving a food secure world. On the ground, Action Against Hunger responds to climate change by enhancing the resilience and the adaptation of the most vulnerable populations to climate-related hazards. Actions include strengthening food and nutrition security surveillance and early warning systems, promotion of agro-ecological approaches and practices, diversification of livelihoods, amongst others. Globally, Action Against Hunger is well involved within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At COP21 and along the Paris Agreement elaboration process, Action Against Hunger has promoted the consideration of Food Security and Human Rights issues, with success. Action Against Hunger also influences the SBSTA (subsidiary body for scientific and technical advice) to consider agriculture in a holistic way.

**FOR FOOD.
FOR WATER.
FOR HEALTH.
FOR NUTRITION.
FOR KNOWLEDGE.
FOR CHILDREN.
FOR COMMUNITIES.
FOR EVERYONE.
FOR GOOD.
FOR ACTION.
AGAINST HUNGER.**

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