

## One World - No Hunger Initiative

### Global programme

### Food and nutrition security, enhanced resilience

#### Context

Over 800 million people worldwide suffer from hunger and two billion are chronically malnourished. While the global starving population has gone down in recent decades, the number of people suffering from hunger in sub-Saharan Africa today is higher than ever. Malnutrition is particularly prevalent in developing countries, where it has an impact not only upon the development prospects of an entire country, but also of each individual affected. If a child does not receive sufficient vital micro nutrients such as vitamins and minerals up to its second year, i.e. over its first 1,000 days beginning with the early embryonic phase, the impact on growth, mental faculties and therefore learning and working potential will endure a lifetime.

There are many causes of hunger and malnutrition. Often, for example, food is not available in sufficient quantities throughout the year – particularly in regions hit by crisis, conflict or recurrent natural disaster. In addition, extreme poverty may mean that people are unable to feed themselves adequately or healthily. Often there is a lack of awareness and knowledge about healthy nutrition. This is particularly the case among small farmers' families, where farmed produce is often insufficient in quantity and variety, i.e. just a few staple foods. As a result, the diet of such families is unbalanced. Furthermore, many people lack adequate access to health services, clean drinking water or sanitary facilities.

For these reasons, the fight against hunger and malnutrition must be broad based if we are to tackle the diverse and complex causes as comprehensively as possible.

#### Objective

The objective of the global project is for poor households to be able to feed themselves adequately and eat healthy at all times – even during periods of famine.

#### Expected results for the target group

The project's main target group includes women of childbearing age, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and infants. The project's objective is to improve the nutritional situation of these women and children. Structural measures to combat hunger and malnutrition, particularly among mothers and young children, are one of the most effective ways of investing in the future. Improving nutrition among infants results in enhanced physical and mental development potential. It also reduces susceptibility to disease and vulnerability to external shocks such as crises or natural disasters, and in so doing provides a basis for improved economic and social development of families and society as a whole.

The project measures outcomes by using standard indicators in line with internationally recognised methods:

Improved quality and a more varied and balanced diet for households threatened by food insecurity;

Improved and stable access to and greater availability of food for households threatened by food insecurity;

A greater proportion of people threatened by food insecurity increase their resilience by taking advantage of basic services in agriculture, health, education, social security as well as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).



Results and progress achieved are then fed back into national and international processes and dialogues.

The project makes a direct contribution to global efforts in the field of food security, in particular implementation of ICN2 (Second International Conference on Nutrition 2014) and as part of the international Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) movement, which is supported by many different actors and emanates from national strategies.

### Target countries and resources use

The global project on Food Security and Strengthening Resilience has funding of around EUR 41.5 million for a period of three years. The target countries are currently Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Togo, Yemen and Zambia. Activities build on existing projects of German development cooperation in various sectors. This creates synergy effects and helps also to focus the impact of existing projects more effectively on improving the nutrition of women and children and the resistance to famine of people in crisis-hit regions.

### The global project in the field

#### Food security in concrete terms: a more equitable and efficient distribution of food in India

Although per capita income in India has more than tripled over the last two decades, more than a quarter of a billion people still do not have enough to eat. Through a state-run distribution system, up to 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population are eligible to receive food at subsidised prices. However, implementation of this scheme is currently inefficient and has shown a high level of loss through fraudulent activity. Moreover, lack of awareness and insufficient knowledge of the importance of a balanced diet also contribute to the fact that women and young children have no access to adequate, varied and high-quality food.

The global project supports the Indian Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and various other Indian institutions with the introduction of a computer-based system to record and control access to distribution. This increases transparency in the allocation process and ensures that food also reaches the poorest of the poor. At the same time, women, who are generally responsible for procuring food for the family, and decision-makers at district and federal level are made aware of the importance of food quality and variation. This creates greater awareness of the need for a varied and balanced diet and improved availability of foodstuffs.

#### Food security in concrete terms: countering the risk of famine in Mali through increased and more varied food production

Ongoing political instability and recurring droughts in Mali make it difficult for large sectors of the poor population in the north of the country to ensure they have enough to eat on a daily basis. Many nomadic herders and even settled farmers have left their traditional areas as a result of violent conflict. Now, however, returning refugees no longer have the resources or skills necessary to counter the crises and disasters effectively. This is increasingly leading to acute famine.

The objective of the project in Mali is to strengthen resilience among the poor population to such crises, particularly in the inland delta of the Niger. This is achieved by linking approaches from various sectors, including food, agriculture, drinking water provision and hygiene. The whole project is supported by comprehensive training for state and private service providers. Measures include, for example, the introduction of more efficient irrigation methods, the planting of kitchen gardens and the provision of water pumps and good quality seed. These measures help improve yields of rice, vegetables and legumes, and in so doing increase the availability of food in the country. In addition, the global project supports the restoration and maintenance of wells and arable land. This not only facilitates the return of people to abandoned areas, it also creates income and helps secure livelihoods.

#### Participation opportunities for non-state actors

The global project will cooperate closely with various national and international non-governmental organisations when it comes to implementing the country packages. To some extent they will be involved directly with implementing measures in the countries. But they will also play a key role in exchanging experiences and further developing guidelines in national and international dialogue processes.

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