

Supporting Chad in reaching its goals of improving sustainable access to irrigated land and diversifying production systems

A team of NIRAS experts developed a baseline study to enable future measurement of progress in the nation's food and nutrition programme to improve livelihoods, fight malnutrition, and increase food security.



Introductory workshop: The Director General of the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning, Deputy National Authorising Officer of FED in Chad (left) with Head of the EU cooperation in Chad, Mr Arnaud Bocharad.



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Placed 186th out of 188 countries in 2018, Chad has one of the lowest Human Development Index rankings globally. Highly vulnerable to climate change and facing multiple security threats from Boko Haram, the landlocked country continues to be weakened by an acute economic and financial crisis. The mostly rural population of 16 million is growing rapidly at more than 3% per year, close to 50% of which reside in extremely poor households. In addition, over half a million refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees have had a destabilising effect on access to available resources and the delicate social balance.

Each year, about 2.6 million people in Chad are food insecure and 1 million are in a state of crisis. More than 30% of children under the age of five are chronically malnourished and it is estimated that 43% of infant mortality is directly associated with under-nutrition. This alarming nutritional situation also has an economic impact, resulting in losses equal to 9.5% of GDP.

The National Indicative Programme of the 11th European Development Fund for the period 2014-2020 was divided into three focus areas, the first of which – food security, nutrition and rural development – aims to significantly reduce chronic food and nutritional deficiencies in Chad (subsequently measured by the prevalence of stunted growth among children under five years).

The Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) financing agreement reflects the multisectoral and multidimensional nature of undernourishment and calls for a joint response from five sectors: agriculture, water and

sanitation, transport, health and good governance in the regions of Wadi Fira, Ouaddai, Guéra, Logone Occidentale and Tandjilé.

Each component of the FNS is attached to the lead Ministry for that sector (ie; water and sanitation falls under the remit of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries) which acts as the main contractor for the multiannual programme.

In order to monitor FNS progress over the five-year implementation period and assess the programme's impact, the Ministry of Planning, the four sectoral ministries concerned and the European Union Delegation assigned NIRAS the task of creating a baseline study against which results can be evaluated in four key areas: food security; drinking water, sanitation and hygiene; rural mobility; health nutrition; and governance.

42

individuals meetings or interviews conducted

26%

average proportion of population in five targeted locations that are food insecure (range 15-43%)

Donor
European Commission

Clients
Ministries of Planning; Health; Agriculture; Infrastructure and Transport; Environment, Water and Fisheries

Location
Wadi Fira, Ouaddai, Guéra, Logone Occidentale and Tandjilé in Chad

Contract value
€67,390

TA value
€49,300

Duration
May-September 2019



Participants at the introductory workshop, including the Coordinator of the PAON (Programme d'Appui à l'Ordonnateur National) (white cap) and head of the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning (red cap).



In doing this, NIRAS was also expected to critically assess the FNS framework, compile existing data inform the baseline, propose targets for the agreed FNS framework, and support the planning of a data collection system for the programme based on its multisectoral nature and building on existing proposals and/or existing practices or structures.

Key deliverables

Working over a period of five months, the team collected and analysed data, prepared a collaborative platform for information sharing, conducted two missions to Chad to meet with FNS coordinators and sector leads, developed proposals for the revision of the framework that were shared at a workshop in Chad, and delivered a final report with recommendations.

The main focus of the final report was on the revision of the framework, the targets and indicators, and the data collection systems. There were challenges around data analysis and the team made an urgent call for the need for national coordination structures with electronic information storage and sharing tools to improve collaboration. This includes a defined statistical database connected to programme targets and indicators in each intervention area and better management of data flows and the technical means to manage them. There is also a need for better clarification of results and what is expected to

Chad's alarming nutritional situation is the result of various direct and underlying causes, including limited access to food and insufficient crop diversification; widespread micronutrient deficiencies; insufficient maternal and child care; poor health and education systems; unequal access to water, hygiene and sanitation; little knowledge of good hygiene habits and practices - including food hygiene.

achieve them, including technical and financial accountability of government authorities. To this end, the team called for the development of a specific National Survey on Food Security to enable monitoring of the proposed indicators and to refine the targeted activities. For example, to achieve the objective of increasing sustainable access to irrigated land, a key target would be to increase the proportion of facilities managed by functional groups. To promote a diversification of production systems in order to guarantee a sustainable increase in income and greater availability of food, a food diversification score should be developed to measure the consumption of 12 key food groups.