



Department of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources
Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development
Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food

International Seminar on Experience Sharing on Social Safety Nets for Food and Nutrition in West Africa

November 2021, online and face to face in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

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1. Introduction

Within the framework of the implementation of the ECOWAS agricultural policy, it emerges that several West African countries do not have significant experiences in the implementation of projects and programs related to social safety nets linked to food and nutrition. Also, existing interventions are not sufficiently coordinated and complementary to demonstrate their capacity to increase resilience and provide opportunities for populations to sustainably withstand shocks.

In 2012, ECOWAS developed the Regional Program to Support National Social Security Nets in West Africa (PRAFNSS) of which objective is to reduce vulnerability and promote sustainable access to food for populations through the co-financing of "innovative" interventions in the field of Social Protection/Social Security Nets in the ECOWAS space.

This programme was adopted in 2013 by the Specialized Ministerial Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources. Within the framework of its implementation at regional level, 19 field actions were financed in the area of social safety nets for food and nutrition security from 2015 to 2021. The objective pursued through the implementation of these actions is to support ECOWAS member countries in their efforts to design and implement programmes related to social safety nets (SSN) in coherence with national social protection strategies or policies.

After six years of implementation, the project has produced knowledge, generated achievements (good practices, lessons learned) that can be scaled up.

In order to share these achievements with a wide audience, ECOWAS plans to organize an international knowledge sharing seminar on good practices of social safety nets in West Africa from November 19 to 23, 2021.

2. General objective

The general objective of the Seminar is to share the main results (SSN models, instruments developed, good practices, lessons learned, challenges, etc.) from the implementation of projects and programmes on social safety nets, to look more closely at the success factors and lessons learned with a view to enriching national and regional crisis and shock management mechanisms in West Africa.

3. Specific objectives

The Seminar has the following specific objectives:

- To present the main orientations of the ECOWAS Regional Support Programme to National Social Safety Nets,
- To share experiences and results from projects and programmes implemented by ECOWAS and its partners or by other actors in the implementation of SSN pilot projects, including models, instruments developed, good practices and lessons learnt, challenges, ...),
- To discuss and formulate recommendations for taking into account these achievements in the various national or regional mechanisms for managing crises and shocks,

- To capitalize on the various innovative experiences of productive social nets in relation to food and nutritional security developed in other regions in order to enrich the current experiences in West Africa,
- To exchange on the prospects for the development of a phase 2 of the project on social safety nets for food and nutrition security in West Africa.

4. Expected results

At the end of the Seminar, the following results are expected

- The main orientations of the Regional Support Programme to National Social Safety Nets in West Africa are presented,
- Good practices on instruments developed, lessons learned and information on social safety net initiatives are shared,
- Proposals and recommendations are made for better appropriation and consideration of good practices in national and regional crisis and shock management systems,
- the experience of social safety net projects/ programmes implemented by a variety of international, regional and national institutions is capitalized,
- Productive discussions on a possible new phase of funding for social safety nets are taking place and partnerships are fostered.

5. Methodological approach

The Seminar will be online and face-to-face from 19 to 23 November 2021. The face-to-face participants will be the 19 field project promoters on social safety nets selected through the two calls for project proposals between 2015 and 2021. Online participants will include:

- Intergovernmental organizations in the region (UEMOA and CILSS),
- ECOWAS Member States represented by the NAPSAN focal points and the coordinators of social safety net programmes/ projects in each country,
- Humanitarian organizations working in the region,
- Representatives of the following countries: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Brazil,
- Regional civil society and gender organizations,
- Regional and international NGOs and networks,
- National umbrella organizations of communes,
- Technical and financial partners,
- Research and training institutions,
- Platforms for capacity building and promotion of social protection (CALP, TRANSFORM...),
- United Nations agencies specialized in internally displaced persons and refugee issues,
- Experts from the FAO, the World Bank and the WFP who have conducted several impact and capitalization studies on social safety nets,
- etc.

6. Agenda

Friday, November 19, 2021

10:00 - 10:45: Official opening ceremony

10:45 - 11:00: Presentation of objectives, expected results and session themes: ECOWAS

Introductory session: Social Safety Nets at the heart of vulnerability reduction policies in Africa

11:00 - 13:00: Facilitation - UEMOA

11:00 - 11:20: Presentation

- **Director of Agriculture and Rural Development:** *"Overview of the Regional Programme to Support National Social Safety Nets in West Africa (PRAFNSS)"*

11:20 - 11:50 - Communications:

- **WB:** *"Social Safety Net Programmes in Africa: Relevance, Opportunities and Challenges"*
- **FAO** *"What Social Safety Net programmes for optimal and sustainable benefits for beneficiaries in Africa?"*

11:50 - 13:00: Questions, discussions and synthesis

1:00 - 2:00 pm: Break

Thematic Session 1: Food Distribution, Child Development and Access to Social Services

Instrument: School feeding

Moderator:

14:00 - 16:00: Theme - *"Building functional and sustainable school feeding models that are based on local products and provide opportunities for small-scale producers"*

Presentation of project promoters:

- **NGO Conseils pour un développement utile en Afrique:** *"Project to promote an integrated system of school feeding and agro-ecology in the Savannah region of Togo"*;
- **NGO CERAI:** *"Resilient agroecological practices and participatory marketing as a tool for school nutrition and community food security for the rural populations of the islands of Santo Antão and Fogo, Cape Verde"*;

- **NGO APS:** "*Strengthening social safety nets in the Departments of Dagana and Podor through a pilot project to promote local production, the introduction of moringa and respect for the environment in school canteens*";
- **NGO RADIG:** "*Support project for market gardening in Forested Guinea*";
- **NGO ZOA:** "*Local Agriculture for Nutrition in the Education Value Chain in LIBERIA*".

Panel 1:

- National Agency for Grassroots Development Support (ANADEB) - Togo;
- Management of school canteens in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF)- USA;
- Coordination of the financial execution of the National School Feeding Programme - Brazil.

Questions, discussions and synthesis

Saturday 20 November 2021

Prospects for Phase 2 of the ECOWAS Food and Nutrition Social Safety Nets Project

Moderation: Mr. Alain SY TRAORE, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development

9:00 - 9:15: Opening ceremony

9:15 - 10:00: Presentation of the perspectives of phase 2 of the social safety nets project for food and nutrition security in West Africa

10:00 - 11:30: Discussion of the presentation

11:30 - 12:00 Closing

12:00 - 13:00 pm: Break

Presentation of some national social safety net programmes implemented in West Africa

Moderation:

13:00 - 13:15: Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) - Ghana

13:15 - 13:30: National Social Safety Nets Project (NASSP) – Nigeria

13:30 - 13:45: Questions & Answers

13:45 - 14:00: Productive Social Nets Program (PFSP) - Côte d'Ivoire

14:00 - 14:15: Basic Social Safety Net Programmes (BSN) – Togo

14:15 - 14:30: Questions & Answers

14:30 - 14:45: National Family Security Grant Program (PNBSF) – Senegal

14:45 - 15:00: Burkin-Nong-Saya social safety net programme (Burkina Faso)

15:00 - 15:15: Questions & Answers

15:15 - 15:30: Synthesis

Monday 25 November 2021

Thematic Session 1: Food distribution, child development and access to social services (continued)

Instrument: transfer of fortified nutritional products+ economic inclusion + training and awareness

Moderator:

10:00-12:00: Theme - "Enhancing the potential of rural households in local food manufacturing or fortification"

Presentation of project promoters:

- **NGO Afric Mutualité:** *Integrated Project of Community Nutrition & Fight against Poverty in Benin (PINCP): Main achievements and lessons learned;*
- **AFAO:** *"Gender mainstreaming in the implementation of social safety nets in vulnerable areas of Senegal and Guinea";*
- **HKI:** *"Operational strategy to improve the productivity of crops of nutritional interest for vulnerable rural populations in Côte d'Ivoire";*
- **Save The Children Foundation:** *"Promoting population resilience through child-sensitive social safety net systems in the Soum province, Burkina Faso".*

Panel 2

- Coordination of the Social Nets Unit of the National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (Niger);
- National Directorate of Nutrition (Nigeria);
- Directorate of Nutrition (Guinea).

Questions, discussions and synthesis.

12:00 - 13:00: Break

Thematic Session 2: Mainstreaming Development, Resilience and Gender

Instrument: Money transfers + (Cash +)

Moderator:

13:00 - 15:00: Theme - "Cash transfers: innovations and strategies for optimizing their use"

Presentation of project promoters:

- **NGO AFV:** *" Support project for the recovery of household economic power (PRODEM)-Niger";*
- **NGO SONGTABA:** *"Empowering communities to become more resilient to the effects of climate change to improve food security" (Ghana);*

- **OXFAM Burkina Faso:** *"Project to support social protection through pilot targeting of vulnerable people and selective social nets in Burkina Faso";*
- **NGO CONEMUND:** *Project to strengthen the food and nutritional security of the most vulnerable populations through the integration of the preventive social net approach in the circle of Yélimané in Mali.*

Panel 3:

- Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP);
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
- Productive Social Nets (PSNP) in Ethiopia;
- National Family Security Grant Program (PNBSF) of Senegal;
- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) in Ghana.

Questions, discussions and synthesis

Tuesday 23 November 2021

Thematic Session 2: Primary Source of Income Development, Resilience and Gender Mainstreaming (continued)

Instrument: Input distribution and capacity building

Facilitator: CILSS

- **10:00 - 12:00:** theme - *"Increasing the resilience of vulnerable households: what productive support measures are needed for access to the best economic activities".*

Presentation of project promoters:

- **NGO NANTS:** *"Empowerment of 300 households in Durumi and Kuje IDP camps in Federal Capital Territory - Abuja through agriculture for improved livelihoods and income generation": success factors and lessons learned;*
- APESS *"Promoting Productive and Sustainable Safety Nets for Vulnerable Livestock and Agro-pastoralist Households" in Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria: Good Practices and Lessons Learned;*
- NGO BRAC: *"Sustainable Livestock Development Model to Improve Food and Nutritional Security in Sierra Leone";*
- RBM: *"Support project for the design of social safety net models adapted to the realities of pastoral farming (FISOREP)";*
- AGED *"Protection of the reproductive nucleus for the benefit of poor agro-pastoralist households in the Sahel region of Burkina Faso".*

Panel 4:

- Social Safety Net Projects (Niger);
- ROPPA;
- Burkin-Nong-Saya social safety net programme (Burkina Faso);
- Mercy Corps;
- Social Safety Nets Programme Coordination Office (Nigeria).

Questions, discussions and synthesis

12:00 - 13:00: Break

1:00-2:30 p.m.: Panel 5 - "Improving gender mainstreaming in social safety net programmes"

Moderation:

- AFAO;
- WILDAF - AO;
- Social Nets Programme (Sierra Leone) ;
- ACF;
- FAO.

Questions, discussions and synthesis

Thematic Session 3: Development and testing of targeting methods

Moderator:

14:30-16:00: theme - "Targeting beneficiaries of projects/ programmes: how to build an effective information system when moving from small coverage to scaling-up?"

Panel 6:

- TRANSFORM platform;
- World Bank;
- Support Project for Communes and Communities for the Expansion of Social Services (ACCESS) - Benin;
- Burkin-Nong-Saya social safety net programme in Burkina Faso
- Jigisemejiri" Social Safety Net Programme in Mali;
- Oxfam Regional.

Questions, discussions and synthesis

General Summary and Closing of the Seminar