Food security stakeholders have formed a consensus that humanitarian assistance must not be disassociated from efforts to combat the structural causes of poverty and endemic famine. The Alliance focuses greater attention on the MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS with the goal of building their resilience and capacity to withstand crises and shocks.

A large number of initiatives already apply the “resilience approach” and the Alliance aims to support and strengthen them. AGIR is thus not an additional initiative or a new opportunity to access finance – even though it might also channel additional resources towards resilience. It is a LONG-TERM POLITICAL PARTNERSHIP to enhance the effectiveness of Sahelian and West African initiatives.

During the December 2012 launch in Ouagadougou, Alliance stakeholders set a goal to ERADICATE HUNGER WITHIN THE NEXT 20 YEARS.

Under the political and technical LEADERSHIP OF ECOWAS, UEMOA AND CILSS, the Alliance builds on existing discussion forums and networks, in particular within the framework of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA).

The ROADMAP provides a Regional Guidance Framework setting forth the overall objectives of the Alliance. It serves as the basis for formulating national resilience priorities, including operational frameworks for funding, implementation, monitoring and assessment.
At the initiative of the European Union, ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS met with their international partners on 18 June 2012 in Brussels to discuss the root causes of recurrent food and nutritional crises which are weakening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households. They agreed to join efforts and create a Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) - Sahel and West Africa.

To implement this partnership, the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) facilitated consultations amongst all stakeholders. On 6 December 2012, some 200 stakeholders gathered in Ouagadougou at the 28th Annual Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) to seal the Alliance. They adopted a Joint Statement outlining the Alliance’s objectives, principles and next steps.

**JOINT STATEMENT**

The stakeholders agree upon the following short-term objectives:

- Define measurable, general targets and fine-tune specific objectives, priorities and indicators for monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment;
- Foster inclusive dialogue at the national level in order to translate AGIR priorities into national operational frameworks within the framework of existing national policies and plans;
- Pursue the implementation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, an essential tool for co-ordinated and effective action;
- Accelerate the implementation of the Regional Food Reserve Strategy.

"Unless we work together to build the capacity of families and communities, the needs for humanitarian aid will only grow...and then resources will go into helping short-term needs at the expense of investment in development. For this not to happen, we have to bring the short-term action with an eye on long-term response and better connect what we do, but also keeping in mind that there are people that are more vulnerable and often are excluded from development. The Alliance aims to connect humanitarian aid and development with the primary objective to benefit exactly these people."

**Kristalina GEORGIEVA**
European Commissioner for International Co-operation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response

➔ **AGIR Launching Ceremony**, Ouagadougou, 6 December 2012. In the middle, from left to right: Nancy LINDBORG, USAID Assistant Administrator; Beyon Luc Adolphe TIAO, Prime Minister of Burkina Faso; and Kristalina GEORGIEVA, European Commissioner.
While Sahelian countries remain fragile and structurally exposed to food and nutritional crises, West Africa as a whole is a **SPACE OF INTERDEPENDENCIES AND COMPLEMENTARITIES** within which countries act in solidarity. AGIR has therefore developed a strong regional vision under the leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA. It facilitates and fosters joint efforts in support of the implementation of the UEMOA Agricultural Policy and the ECOWAS Common Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP), in particular within the framework of National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIPs), the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme (RAIP), and other resilience-building sectoral policies.

### REGIONAL VISION

#### RESIDENTIAL ROADMAP

An outcome of an inclusive consultation process with all stakeholders, the Roadmap defines the Regional Guidance Framework for coherent and co-ordinated action:

**Overall Objective**

The overall objective of the Alliance is to "Structurally reduce food and nutritional vulnerability in a sustainable manner by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West African policies" and to eradicate hunger and malnutrition within the next 20 years.

**Target Populations**

Small-scale vulnerable farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists, and the working poor in the rural and urban informal economy. Particular emphasis is placed on the most vulnerable groups such as children under five, pregnant and breast-feeding women.

**Some Expected Results**

- Prevalence of global chronic malnutrition less than 20%;
- Decrease in the percentage of people structurally vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity;
- Significant increase in the coverage of food and nutritional needs by regional agricultural production.

**Resilience**

The term is defined as:

"The capacity of vulnerable households, families, communities and system to face uncertainty and the risk of shocks, to withstand and respond effectively to shocks, as well as to recover and adapt in a sustainable manner."

**Strategic Objectives**

- Improve social protection for the most vulnerable households & communities in order to secure their livelihoods;
- Strengthen the nutrition of vulnerable households;
- Sustainably improve agricultural and food production, the incomes of vulnerable households and their access to food;
- Strengthen governance in food and nutritional security.

#### 1. Djamé ADOUM, CILSS Executive Secretary. 2. Désiré Kadré OUÉDRAOGO, ECOWAS Commission President and Cheikhe Hadjibou SOUMARÉ, UEMOA Commission President. 3. Senior Experts Group Meeting, Paris, 7-8 November 2012. 4. Maimouna LO-GUÈYE, Secretary-General, Ministry for Agriculture, Senegal and Khady Fall TALL, AFAO-WAWA President. 5. Simone ZOUNDI, FIAB President, Private Sector Representative.
T he Alliance aims to support the implementation and strengthening of the “resilience” aspects of the National Agricultural Investment Programmes (NAIPs) and resilience-relevant sectoral policies (health, education, family planning, social protection, business, investment, etc.).

Beyond its broad outlines, the Roadmap emphasizes the Principle of Subsidiarity. While Sahelian and West African countries share a common destiny, each of them must respond to their specific national context.

The Alliance is open to all West African countries, but pays particular attention to the Countries of the Sahelian Belt, which are structurally exposed to recurrent food crises and chronic malnutrition.

Inclusive National Dialogue Platforms will help analyse sectoral policies, identify resilience priorities, and define operational frameworks for funding, implementation, monitoring and assessment.

Building on existing programmes, structures and mechanisms, the Alliance aims to mobilise a greater number of actors and means.

Dialogue, Inter-sectoral Co-ordination and Synergy are the cornerstones of this approach.

“We would like to see our region involved in the global co-ordination of this initiative. If there is a large number of actors intervening in various sectors, - without co-ordination, problems will arise quickly.”

“The region has a critical mass of strategic documents and concerted policies to address recurrent food crises. That is why we are convinced that AGIR should support and become an entire part of our regional agenda for sustainable agricultural development and food sovereignty, while also taking into account emergency actions which should become the exception.”

“In the Sahel, with the population anticipated to double by 2050, the challenges become ever greater, and time is not on our side. Our gathering today to collectively launch AGIR acknowledges these realities but also, most importantly signifies that we have identified and committed to a better way.”
GOVERNANCE

1. LOCAL AND NATIONAL

Existing structures provide the framework for dialogue, guidance, co-ordination and monitoring activities: sectoral and multi-actor stakeholders (agricultural producers, private sector, civil society, technical and financial partners).

2. REGIONAL

The ECOWAS Specialised Technical Ministerial Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (CTS-AERE) and the UEMOA High-Level Committee on Food Security (CHN-SA) are the Alliance’s main regional decision-making bodies. The CILSS Executive Secretariat hosts a technical unit, responsible for facilitating the implementation of the Regional Roadmap. Its mission is to provide methodological support, information, and advocacy; facilitate inclusive national dialogues; and co-ordinate and facilitate the implementation of regional priorities and experience-sharing. The Alliance is based on existing structures, platforms and networks, in particular the RPCA.

3. INTERNATIONAL

AGIR’s international partners have established a co-ordination Platform of Technical and Financial Partners (PTFP/AGIR) whose goal is to sustain the political commitment of the technical and financial partners and facilitate continuous political interaction between the international community and Sahelian and West African policy makers. The Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) platform, via the RPCA, provides the common space for dialogue, debate, lobbying and advocacy for the Alliance on the international stage. The Senior Experts Group monitors the implementation of priority actions within the framework of RPCA meetings.

"AGIR offers an unprecedented opportunity to pursue the collective effort which was initiated during the 2012 food crisis. AGIR brings us all together around a unified West African region, its institutions, its member countries and its people."

Mamadou CISSOKHO
ROPRA President of Honour, Civil Society Representative

"Our first concern is that the Alliance must be built on the priorities of the region. The leadership of our regional organisations must be recognised. These organisations must in return commit to mobilising their own resources to implement their policies and harmonise their interventions at all levels (local, national, regional, etc.). Nowhere in the world has resilience been achieved exclusively through development co-operation. That is why we are asking the co-operation agencies to develop an approach that supports our action, standing behind us and with us."

At all levels, agricultural producers’ and pastoralists’ organisations, civil society and the private sector will have their own specific area for dialogue enabling them to strengthen their dialogue and organisational capacity.

Andris PIEBALGS
EU Commissioner for Development
SAHELIAN COUNTRIES account for more than 40% OF THE CHRONIC MALNUTRITION CASES in the region. The acute malnutrition rate regularly exceeds the emergency threshold level of 15% in many areas of the Sahel.

In February 2012, UEMOA established the HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY which provides guidance and support for member countries.

ECOWAS put in place the NUTRITION FORUM, co-ordinated by the West African Health Organization since 2001.

Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone are members of the SCALING-UP NUTRITION (SUN) movement.

On 27 September 2012, ECOWAS Ministers for Agriculture approved the "ZERO HUNGER" STRATEGY for West Africa.

KEY DOCUMENTS

AGIR Regional Roadmap, April 2013
AGIR Joint Statement of Ouagadougou, 6 December 2012
AGIR Joint Declaration on the Strengthening of Resilience, 18 June 2012
Consultations with Agricultural Producers, Civil Society and the Private Sector, October 2012
ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS Joint Position, September 2012
EU Approach to Resilience: Learning from Food Crises, October 2012
EU Policy on Improving Infant and Maternal Nutrition within the framework of Foreign Aid, March 2013
FAO: Resilient Livelihoods, Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security, November 2011
OECD, FAO: Building Resilience for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector, April 2012
Oxfam: Escaping the Hunger Cycle, Pathways to Resilience in the Sahel, September 2011
UNDP: Putting Resilience at the Heart of Development, June 2012
UNDP: Towards Human Resilience, Sustaining MDG Progress in an Age of Economic Uncertainty, Sept 2011
UNOCHA: Resilience in Simple Terms, January 2013
USAID: Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis, December 2012

➔ www.food-security.net