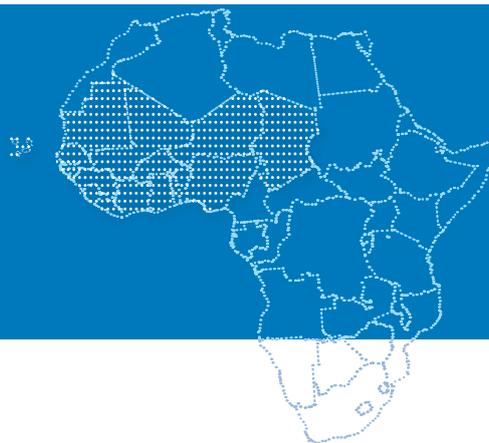


SAHEL AND
WEST AFRICA **CLUB**

Newsletter

WORKING TOGETHER FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION



Contents

- ▶ 2015, a year full of dangers?
- ▶ A network approach to cross-border co-operation
- ▶ Market, food security & structural changes
- ▶ 2014 Sahel and West Africa Week
- ▶ Launch of the Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel
- ▶ RPCA: nearly 3 million people at risk of food insecurity
- ▶ The Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) is on track
- ▶ SWAC Members discuss strategic partnerships
- ▶ SWAC at Expo Milano 2015
- ▶ Maps & Facts
- ▶ Save the dates!

2015, a year full
of dangers?

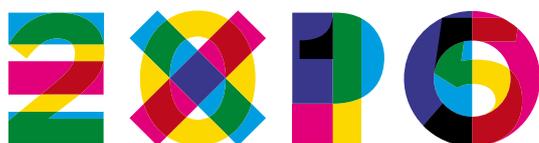
For some time now, the government of Niger has been ringing alarm bells over the increasing threats on its borders with Libya and Nigeria, not to mention to the west, the resurgence of tensions in northern Mali. Despite the mobilisation of the international community, the risks have never been greater. A fragile country, grappling with structural food and nutrition insecurity, Niger is caught in a tectonic of threats that could lead to an explosion of violence.



Laurent Bossard
SWAC Secretariat Director

Niger is a dreadful and immediate *textbook case*, which demonstrates that there is no alternative to dialogue and co-operation between West African countries and between the latter and the Maghreb. Chad is in a similar situation as is Mali and, to a lesser extent, Mauritania.

The other scourge that 2015 inherits from 2014 is that of Ebola. Why has this epidemic, which is now believed to be nearly under control, been so long and so awful? We now know that the first case appeared in Guinea on 6 December 2013 in Méliandou village, near Guékédou, 60 km from the Liberian border and 100 km from the one with Sierra Leone. For more than three months after the first death, the Ebola virus did not appear on any radar screen. The virus thus was able to spread for many weeks with impunity, because the area is isolated and has few health centres whose staff are not adequately trained and equipped. This is a first element of an explanation. The second one has to do with the cross-border nature of the area concerned. Although located in Guinea, Guékédou is the market city for a large number of border villages in Liberia and Sierra Leone. While the government in Conakry formally recognised the existence of the epidemic in the country in March, the virus had already – quite awhile before – crossed over the border. But the first cases officially recorded in the border area of Kailahun in Sierra Leone date from 27 May. On several occasions, the Guinean authorities believed they had won the battle.



MILANO

However, each time, new cases *inexplicably* appeared. As a matter of fact, the virus continued to spread from the neighbouring countries. Mid-2014, experts acknowledged that bringing the virus under control in Guinea would not be possible as long as the number of Ebola cases in neighbouring countries was not reduced... Here is another example, as concrete as it is painful, of the imperative of regional co-operation.

On these two issues – security and Ebola – there is no cause for optimism. West Africa could face one of the gloomiest years in its history. The worst scenario is anxiogenic. In this scenario the dark red stain of Boko Haram is spread over parts of Niger, Chad and Cameroon; contested results of the presidential, legislative and local elections in Nigeria (February) lead to even greater chaos in the country; the lawless zone of southern Libya extend to adjacent areas in Algeria, Niger, Chad and Sudan; the negotia-

tions over the status of northern Mali fail, resulting in new episodes of violence; the Islamic State definitively establishes its junction with the Sahel through Libya, where it has recently installed itself... all of this feeding and feeding on the further growth of arms and drugs trafficking. This nightmare scenario could also include the resurgence of socio-political unrest of various degrees around the presidential elections in Togo (April), Côte d'Ivoire (October), Burkina Faso (October) and Guinea (November). As for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, they will be faced with the structural impacts, without a doubt disastrous, of the Ebola epidemic on millions of households, which will produce a net decline in resilience in these three countries. On the whole, it is difficult to be optimistic at the dawn of 2015. The threats born in recent years are still present. The more time passes, the more they grow and blend into a complex web of more or less immediate dangers.

But pessimism can lead to fatalism, and fatalism is not a policy. There are some encouraging signs and some hopes to which we may cling.

With regard to security, regional co-operation certainly remains at an embryonic stage, but on 20 January, Niger hosted thirteen countries from the region in a bid to jointly define a common strategy against Boko Haram. Three days earlier, Cameroon and Nigeria had authorised Chad to dispatch 400 armoured vehicles to (most especially) reclaim the city of Baga, which Boko Haram had almost completely razed and emptied of its inhabitants. Aided by Operation Barkhane, which the French army is conducting in the Sahel, and supported by the international community, these efforts may bear fruit in the coming months.



© Hyppolyte Sama

Some protesters on 30 October 2014, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

This will require that Nigeria make a success of its elections. Certainly Boko Haram threatens the organisation of elections in the three north-eastern states most affected by the violence. But the two main candidates have called on their supporters not to get involved in post-election violence. President Jonathan has promised to step down if he is defeated. If so, the country will have successfully completed a new stage of its democratic revival since the end of dictatorship in 1999: the first cross-party change of power through elections.

Although it is still tenuous, there is hope that political dialogue will begin in Libya; this dialogue seems to be emerging in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations. The International Contact Group on Libya, created by the African Union on 3 December 2014, also seems capable of creating a regional and international coalition in support of the country.

Much less uncertain, the political transition in Burkina Faso could strengthen the roots of democracy, not only in the country but in the region and the continent. The same goes for Côte d'Ivoire, where a transparent and well-organised presidential election could ease the still painful wounds from the 2010-11 post-election crisis. Like Nigeria, Guinea could experience its first democratic transfer of power. Neither prediction nor preference, the prospect of peaceful change in these two countries is mentioned here simply as the most complete manifestation of democratic life.

And are the negotiations over northern Mali truly blocked? No, according to the Algerian minister of foreign affairs and chief mediator, who said on 29 January that an agreement could be signed in the next six months.

Finally, the countries concerned, the region and the international community seem determined to draw the appropriate lessons from the Ebola outbreak, by establishing early-warning, monitoring and rapid response systems. One can only hope that they will do so within a regional framework, the only way to be truly effective.

The SWAC has no mandate to contribute directly to stabilisation processes or to elections support, even less so to the management of health crises. Our mission in the matter is to promote and emphasise the need for regional action - through factual analysis and political dialogue; our job is to persuade, argue, and provide tools and options for action.

This is what we have done recently by publishing the Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel, which received an enthusiastic reception from officials responsible for stabilisation and development strategy for these areas and beyond. The Secretariat will continue to promote debate around this work.

This is also what we will continue to do in 2015-16 by proposing an original approach to cross-border co-operation, some initial contours of which are presented in this newsletter.

We will also continue to support and strengthen the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), which has established itself as an international body of reference. Alongside the Commissions of ECOWAS and UEMOA, the CILSS Executive Secretariat and other stakeholders of the RPCA, we will pursue our efforts towards greater co-ordination and synergies, particularly in the context of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR). To reduce the gap between the world of researchers and that of practitioners and technicians, we are also launching this year a new programme dedicated to promoting innovative approaches to food security and resilience.

We will do all this underpinned by the credo of SWAC, which is regional co-operation, which, though it may be an old idea, has yet to be fully developed in a number of areas.

The year 2015 offers us ample opportunities to promote this approach. This is the case with the Expo Milano 2015, during which, at the invitation of the European Union, we will hold the 2015 Sahel and West Africa Week from 26-30 October. This is also the case with the heads of state conferences of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS, the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the CILSS Agrhymet Regional Centre in February in Niamey, the 40th anniversary of ECOWAS in May in Abuja, the European Development Days in Brussels in June, the 21st Climate Conference (COP21) in early December in Paris, and of course the RPCA annual meeting to be held in Madrid from 14-17 December.

The Secretariat will work to live up to the SWAC's ambitions and the expectations of the Sahel and West Africa.

Laurent Bossard

SWAC Secretariat Director

A network approach to cross-border co-operation



The 2015-16 strategic reflexion cycle focuses on cross-border co-operation using a relational approach based on cartography and policy network analysis. The SWAC Secretariat is teaming up with the Department of Border Region Studies at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU), which co-ordinates work with an international team of researchers. The Secretariat is also collaborating with the African Union Border Programme (AUBP), the NEPAD Agency, the ECOWAS Cross-Border Initiatives Programme, and the UEMOA Council for Territorial Planning, and consolidates connections with international partners. Intermediary results will be discussed in restricted working sessions and during the 2015 SWAC Forum. Key findings will be shared broadly in policy papers and briefs. A final report will be published within the OECD West African Studies series at the end of 2016.

Three key questions will be addressed:

What is the most appropriate level of activity for cross-border co-operation?

One major challenge of regional integration lies in adapting the spatial scale of institutions to the scale of economic activities. The appropriate level of economic activities is usually defined by the boundaries of functional regions, i.e. internally cohesive and well-connected areas, whereas institutions are usually based on administrative units. Actual institutional units rarely match their functional counterparts and, as a result, the economic challenges faced by regions are not adequately addressed, particularly if legal and regulatory frameworks differ. By identifying the economic potential of border areas, this strategic reflexion cycle will address the following questions: how to develop opportunities and respond to the needs of cross-border regions? How can these areas be more strongly connected, and what role could they play in the context of organising the West African territory?

→ www.oecd.org/swac/ourwork/waf-2015-16.htm

How do cross-border policy networks work?

Very little is known about how actors engaged in policy networks co-operate across national borders, especially regarding the cross-border circulation of information and resources. A mapping study will analyse the relationships between public actors: How do social context and informal ties shape relationships between border actors in West Africa? Who are the actors or groups of actors, which have formal power and which may influence decisions in a more informal way? How do these actors co-operate when faced with different or conflicting institutional frameworks?

How can a network approach to cross-border co-operation help decision-making?

A network approach illustrates how actors co-operate and may influence decisions. A better understanding of the overall structure of policy networks can improve the co-ordination between the various partners (donors, regional organisations, private actors, state actors, local municipalities) involved in cross-border co-operation. What are their conflicting or co-operative goals, and how do they influence each other? How could the network evolve with a view to strengthening cross-border governance in the region? The data visualisation of this network approach will offer a complementary reading to the more traditional forms of analysis.

Market, food security & structural changes

The West African food economy is changing: restructuring of agricultural markets; reconfiguration of cross-border trade; development of agro-food chains; changes in consumer behaviour. How to design policies that support agricultural production and encourage the emergence of new activities in the context of strong population growth and evolving markets? In conjunction with the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR), the SWAC Secretariat is launching a new programme dedicated to promoting innovative approaches to food security. In 2015, the programme focuses on transformations in agro-food value chains and their contribution to resilience. Particularly, the analysis focuses on settlement dynamics and the volume in regional trade; the agricultural trade balance; changes in value-added by sector; infrastructure networks and market participants' behaviour; the changes in households' food basket; and the implications of these changes for the development of resilience indicators. Policy papers and briefs will feed into debates, in particular within the RPCA.

→ www.oecd.org/swac/ourwork/market-foodsecurity.htm



Objectives

Drawing on the results of the 2011-12 Programme: Settlement, Markets & Food Security and the update of the Africapolis study, this programme aims to:

- ▶ Identify key transformations in West African agro-food value chains
- ▶ Analyse the impacts of these changes on food and nutrition security and their contribution to the resilience of food systems

Key facts

From 1950 to 2010, the West African population grew from 72 to 290 million people, which represents a four-fold increase in 60 years. This growth was accompanied by a spatial redistribution of population with the development of cities (118 million urban dwellers in 2010). As a result of this urbanisation process, the number of net consumers of food products is increasing and represents about 50% of the total population. This trend is set to continue, reflecting the integration into the market economy. These changes have not been possible without provoking transformations in food value chains. Over two-thirds of household food needs are met by the market, enabling the development of a food sector where intermediaries and food processors are playing an increasingly important role. West African policies must take into account these changes and their impacts on food and nutrition security in order to better anticipate and benefit from the major transformations in the region.

2014 Sahel and West Africa Week



At the invitation of the European Commission and the government of Belgium, the 2014 Sahel and West Africa Week was held in Brussels from 15 to 19 December. West Africa's voice resounded in the prestigious Robert Schuman room of the Berlaymont building. The event gathered more than 250 participants, including ministers from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo; leaders from ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS and NEPAD; Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Didier Reynders, European Commissioners Neven Mimica (International Co-operation & Development) and Christos Stylianides (Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management), as well as many other high-level representatives from the international community and West African civil society. The Brussels meetings reinforced the Sahel and West Africa Week in its role of fostering informal exchange, networking and partnerships.

→ www.oecd.org/swac/events/week2014.htm





© photos: EU/UE and SWAC/OECD

Launch of the Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel

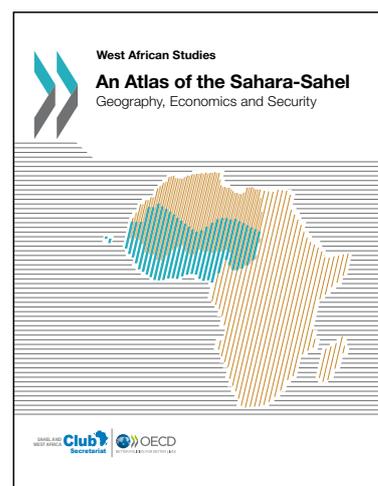


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Mohamed Baye, Chief Co-ordinator, SDS Niger-Sahel Strategy Executive Secretariat

Within the 2014 Sahel and West Africa Week, a high-level panel held debate on SWAC's most recent flagship publication: *An Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Geography, Economics and Security*. Based on a spatial and regional analysis, the 250-page publication including 150 maps and graphs, proposes a new reading of the region's mobility and security challenges. The publication includes the views of regional and international policy makers regarding the region's challenges. Didier Reynders, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister, Michel Reveyard de Menthon, EU Special Representative for the Sahel,

Mohamed Baye, Chief Co-ordinator of the SDS Niger-Sahel Strategy Executive Secretariat, Hiroute Guebre Sellassie, UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, Ibrahim Mayaki, Executive Director of the NEPAD Agency, and Klaus Rudischhauser, Deputy Director General for Development and Co-operation, EuropeAid of the European Commission, were among the key speakers. About 100 people took part in the official launch, which was transmitted via live stream. The press release was republished on more than 100 online platforms, in particular in West Africa.



Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Geography, Economics and Security

For several decades, the Sahara-Sahel has experienced recurrent episodes of instability. However, the Libyan, Malian and Nigerian crises have brought new levels of violence. These episodes have restructured the geopolitical and geographical dynamics of the region. These contemporary regional crises require new institutional responses. How can countries sharing this space - Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger and Tunisia – together and in relation with states such as Nigeria, stabilise and develop?

Historically, the Sahara is a transit space linking North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Commercial and human exchanges are intense and based on social networks that now include a diverse range of criminal activities. Understanding mobile societies and spaces of the Sahara-Sahel represents a strategic challenge. This Atlas aims to contribute to addressing this challenge and to informing the Sahel strategies of ECOWAS, the United Nations, the Sahel G5, the African Union and the European Union.



→ Read online:

www.oecd.org/swac/publications or <http://goo.gl/Y556RR>

DOI:10.1787/9789264222359-en



Ibrahim Assane Mayaki
Executive Director,
NEPAD Agency

“The Atlas is a valuable source of information laying the groundwork for long-term thinking. It is an extremely important contribution that will allow us to better reflect on the definition and implementation of our public policies in the Sahara-Sahel geographic context.”



Hiroute Guebre Sellassie
UN Special Envoy
for the Sahel

“The human and economic potential of the region can and should play a key role in changing the image of the Sahara-Sahel [...] The region can capitalise on a very young population, an increasingly open political sphere in which civil society actors are intensifying their participation, the use of economic resources for the benefit of people. [...] These are all very promising areas for the future of a region that has greatly suffered.”



Michel Reveyrand de Menthon
EU Special Representative
for the Sahel

“The reality of the Sahara-Sahel is often not very well known, including by people who are generally interested in this particular region. The Atlas offers a mass of data and information in many fields: environment, economics, human relations and strategic thinking, making the Atlas an absolutely essential tool. [...] It contributes to improving the understanding of the strategic issue of this Sahara-Sahel universe.”



Francois-Xavier de Donnea
SWAC President



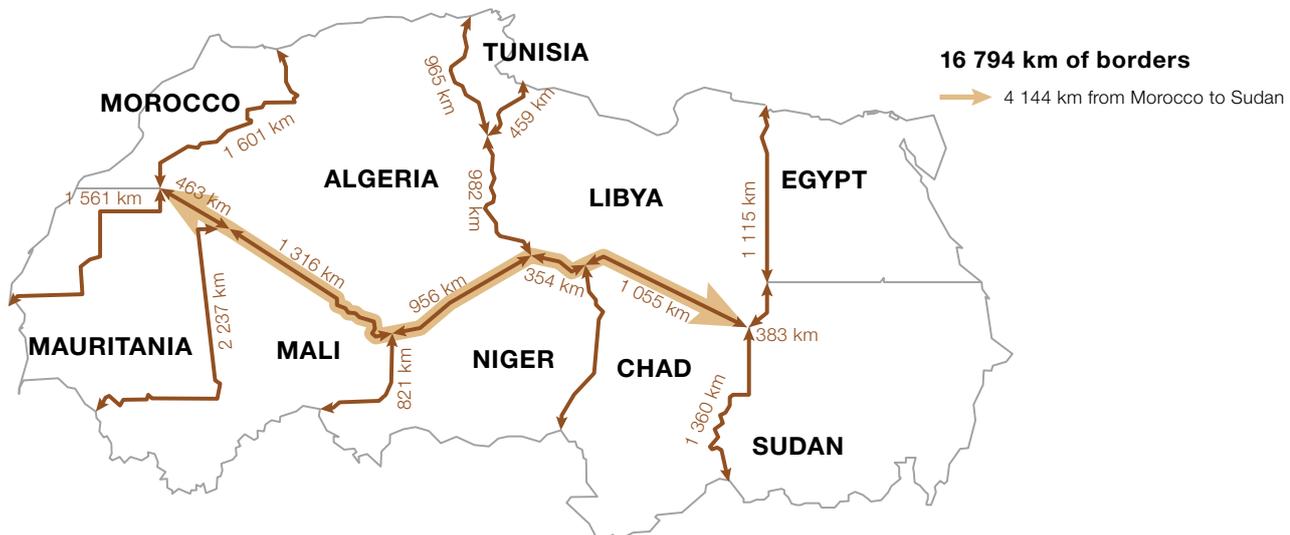
Didier Reynders
Deputy Prime Minister,
Belgium

Borders in the Sahara-Sahel

As a result of relatively recent history, almost 17 000 km of borders cross the Sahara-Sahel areas. Placed end-to-end, this represents more than 40% of the earth’s circumference. While these borders are no obstacle to human mobility, they remain a symbol of strong political and institutional boundaries between Morocco and Algeria, for example, but also between the geopolitical spaces of the Maghreb and Sub-Saharan Africa.

“This atlas is intended for all decision-makers, in Europe and in the United States as much as for Sahelian and North African decision-makers. It is important that all political leaders realise that there are no solutions other than regional ones and that such solutions should engage West African, Central African and North African countries in solidarity.”

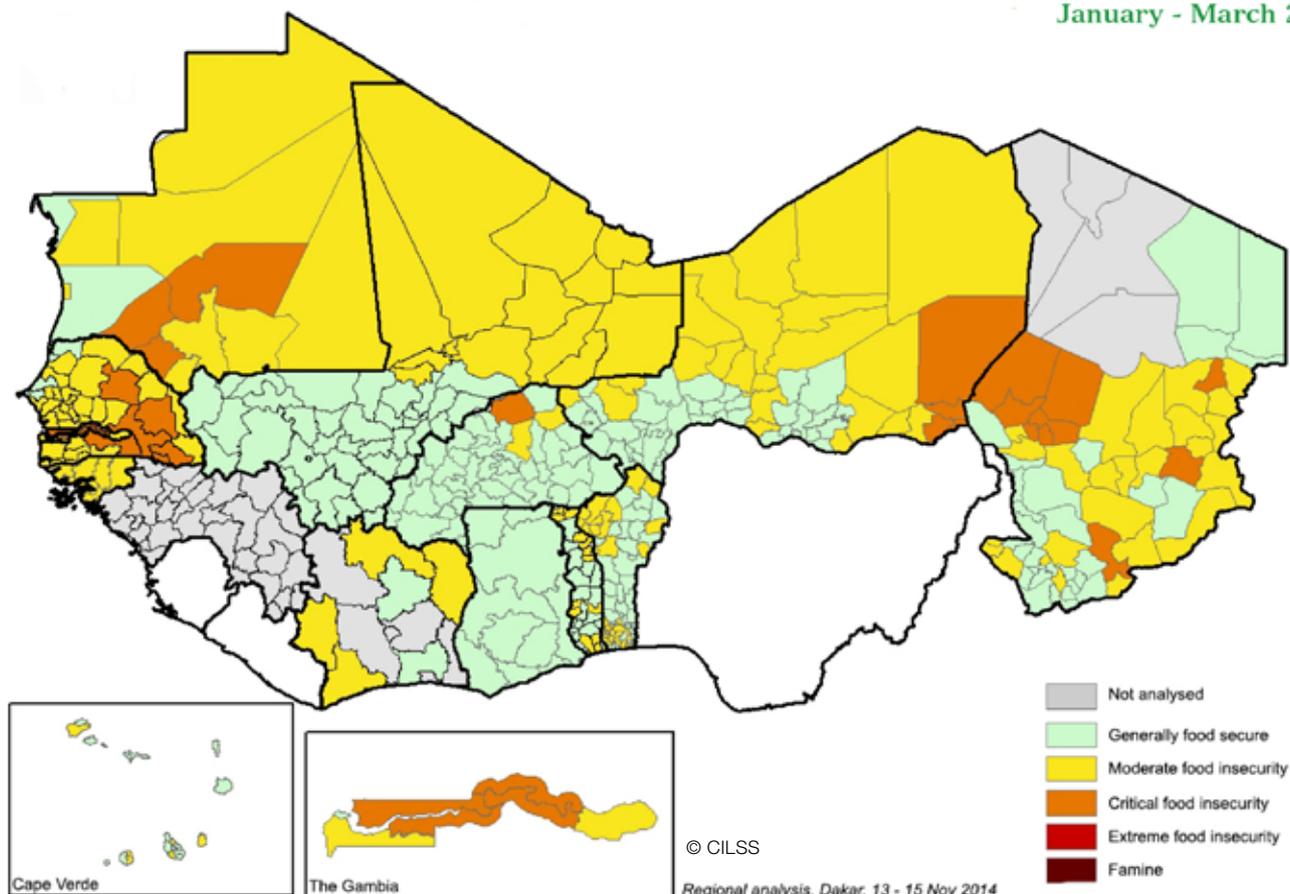
“The Atlas provides a new reading of quite complex phenomena that the region faces. [...] It is an important tool for anyone trying to elaborate strategies for action.”



RPCA : nearly 3 million people at risk of food insecurity



January - March 2015



Members of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) at their 30th annual meeting on 17-18 December in Brussels, affirmed – once again – that despite a generally satisfactory 2014-15 agro-pastoral campaign, a large number of people (3 million) are in a “crisis or emergency phase”, notably in Chad, The Gambia,

Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. “The situation could worsen in January-March 2015 and extend to Burkina Faso and Niger, to affect almost 4.2 million people”, estimated RPCA Members who proposed mitigation measures to protect the most vulnerable populations. Moreover, they commended the effective start

of the first external evaluation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC), covering all seventeen Sahelian and West African countries.

→ www.food-security.net



Focus on Ebola

The Ebola virus disease epidemic presents a new challenge to the global community in general and to the RPCA in particular. Behind this unprecedented health crisis is looming undoubtedly a serious food and nutrition crisis coupled with an additional threat to resilience. While the humanitarian community is already mobilised, the RPCA recognised that the scale and complexity of the impact on food and resilience is - at this stage - difficult to accurately measure with the tools used by the Network. Key findings of a preliminary study will be presented at the next RPCA meeting, which will be held from 2 to 6 March in Lomé, Togo.

The Brussels meeting gathered more than 120 food security leaders, including ministers from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo, the two new EU Commissioners in charge of humanitarian aid and development as well as the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissioners in charge of agriculture. The debates were transmitted via live stream enabling delegates from Liberia and Sierra Leone, and more than 200 people in West Africa and from around the world, to follow the discussions.

Ebola situation report of the ECOWAS area

Country	Cases and deaths (suspected, probable and confirmed)			Percentage		Last update of data
	Cases	Deaths	Fatality %	Cases	Deaths	
Guinea	2 993	1 965	65.7%	13%	22%	4 February 2015, 6 new cases (3 confirmed, 1 probable, 2 suspected)
Liberia	8 678	3 747	43.2%	38%	41%	31 January 2015, 12 new cases (2 probable cases, 10 suspected cases)
Mali	7	5	71.4%	< 1%	< 1%	declared free of Ebola on 18 Jan 2015
Nigeria	20	8	40.0%	< 1%	< 1%	declared free of Ebola on 20 Oct 2014
Senegal	1	0	0	< 1%	< 1%	declared free of Ebola on 17 Oct 2014
Sierra Leone	10 845	3 315	30.6%	48 %	37%	5 February 2015, 13 new confirmed cases
ECOWAS	22 544	9 040	40.1%			

Sources: affected countries and the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), www.wahooas.org - 6 February 2015

The month of January 2015 seemed to confirm the downward trend in cases reported in December 2014. According to the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) and based on information collected by the affected countries, Liberia recorded a slight increase in cases compared to the month of December, from 462 to 563 cases. At the same time, cases in Guinea fell by more than half.

For now, the epidemiological dynamics seem to be stabilising, but the crisis is not over. It is very likely that for the second consecutive year, the agricultural campaign in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone will be severely disrupted this year.

The crisis has revealed the importance of strong early warning systems and public health responses to people's resilience, especially in isolated areas. There are lessons to be learned from the experience, including within the framework of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR).

The crisis has also demonstrated the low capacity of the countries concerned and of the international community to integrate, in a timely manner, the cross-border aspect of the problem. One can hope that health authorities will draw lessons and will establish cross-border monitoring and response systems. The same applies for post-crisis management in terms of food and nutrition security and resilience.



The Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) is on track



About the Alliance

Launched in Ouagadougou in December 2012, AGIR is a framework that helps to foster improved synergy, coherence and effectiveness in support of resilience initiatives in the 17 West African and Sahelian countries. The Alliance is placed under the political and technical leadership of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS and it is based on existing platforms and networks, in particular the RPCA. Building on the “Zero Hunger” target within the next 20 years, **the Alliance is neither an initiative nor a policy**. It is a policy tool aimed at channelling efforts of regional and international stakeholders towards a common results framework. A Regional Roadmap adopted in April 2013 specifies the objectives and main orientations of AGIR. Many countries have started defining “National Resilience Priorities”, including operational frameworks for funding, implementation, monitoring and assessment.

Resilience

AGIR is based on a shared definition of the term “resilience” as being:

“The capacity of vulnerable households, families, communities and systems 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”.

Objectives

The overall objective of the Alliance is to “Structurally reduce, in a sustainable manner, food and nutritional vulnerability by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West African policies”. In the next 20 years, the Alliance aims to completely eradicate hunger and malnutrition (Objective “Zero Hunger”). In the short term, the Alliance aims to build resilience among the vulnerable communities and households so that they are better able to resist shocks.

Targets

- ▶ Small-scale vulnerable agricultural households
- ▶ Agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households (including artisan fishermen)
- ▶ Poor workers in rural and urban areas

A particular focus is placed on the most vulnerable within these three categories: children under the age of five, pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers, as well as women-headed households and the elderly.

Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner, international co-operation and development and Estherine Fotabong, NEPAD Director for Programme Implementation and Co-ordination

Within the RPCA, the Senior Experts Group of the Global Alliance for Resilience (SEG-AGIR) assessed progress made in the implementation of AGIR. Thirteen of seventeen countries have launched an inclusive dialogue process to identify national resilience priorities (NRP). This is, however, just the first step of a dialogue process, which must be pursued in the long-term in order to consolidate a multi-sector approach within AGIR. SEG-AGIR Members commended the strong involvement of civil society representatives and committed to implement an intensive

communications and lobbying campaign. They announced plans to organise within the first term of 2015 a joint ECOWAS-UEMOA high-level conference on the funding of 2016-2020 resilience priorities. This proposal was supported by Members of the AGIR Co-ordination platform of the technical and financial partners (TFP). The SWAC Secretariat plays a key role in facilitation, lobbying and advocacy for AGIR. In 2015, and within the RPCA, it is co-ordinating a regional process to develop a consensual approach for resilience impact assessment.

→ www.oecd.org/site/rpcalagir



Neven Mimica

EU Commissioner for international co-operation and development



Christos Stylianides

EU Commissioner for humanitarian aid and crisis management



Rosine Baiwong Djibergui Amane

Chadian Minister for agriculture and environment; CILSS Co-ordinator Minister

“The region is now better able to cope with future crises [...] I am now looking forward to having all countries on board; ensuring an inclusive and participatory process in finalising their National Resilience Priorities going forward.”

“AGIR can only achieve its goal of zero hunger if more emphasis is put on a large spectrum of policies at the same time. Social protection for the most vulnerable, health and nutrition, agriculture and food governance should all constitute resilience priorities. [...] I would like to reassure you that the EU commitment is long-term, not short-term.”

“In each country, I would like to see the regional co-ordination of AGIR fully play its role in supporting and providing guidance for the focal points and ensuring that the Alliance is well understood. [...] Without this, we will not succeed in achieving our objectives. It is important to devote substantial effort to explaining the Alliance, as much as possible, including at the local level so that the grass roots can participate in the process with a clear understanding.”



Mamadou Cissokho

ROPPA Honorary President, representative of civil society



Alexandre Deprez

Director, USAID West Africa Regional Mission

“AGIR is neither a programme nor a policy. Civil society and farmers’ organisations, we want partners to support the implementation of our agricultural policies, as they are the frameworks that have been negotiated with political authorities and that ensure sustainability. Beyond political discussions, we are committed to the concrete realisation of these objectives, which are already well defined.”

“We must strengthen the capacity of our partners to further support them in the implementation of their national resilience priorities.”

Formulation process of “National Resilience Priorities” (NRP-AGIR)

The implementation of AGIR is now at a crossroads. A majority of countries have started formulating National Resilience Priorities (NRP). The Regional Roadmap adopted by all stakeholders in April 2013, is guiding their work.

- Group 1** - countries in the process of validating their NRP-AGIR:
Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Togo
- Group 2** - countries expected to define their NRP-AGIR in the first half of 2015:
Benin, Chad, Mauritania and Senegal
- Group 3** - countries prepared to launch the process in early 2015:
Cape Verde, The Gambia and Liberia
- Group 4** - countries in which initial discussions are underway:
Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone

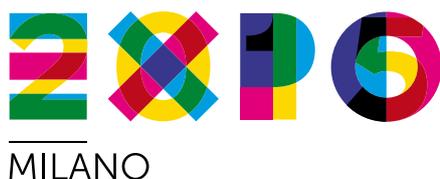
SWAC Members discuss strategic partnerships



Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, the Strategy and Policy Group (SPG) meeting offered SWAC Members the opportunity to discuss the 2015-16 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and SWAC's strategic partnerships with the European Union and the NEPAD Agency. Following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SWAC on 22 October 2014, Ibrahim Mayaki, Executive Director of the NEPAD Agency presented the scope of the proposed collaboration,

in particular opportunities created for other African regions that can benefit from West Africa's experiences. Roberto Ridolfi, Director for Sustainable Growth and Development at the DG Development and Co-operation, EuropeAid, underlined the importance of the strategic partnership between the EU and SWAC, focusing on the regional governance and co-ordination of food and nutrition security, and resilience. The next SPG meeting is scheduled for 16 June 2015 in Paris.

SWAC at Expo Milano 2015



The 2015 Sahel and West Africa Week will be held at Expo Milano 2015 from 26 to 30 October, coinciding with the final days of this momentous global event. From May to October, Milan will welcome more than twenty million visitors at the universal exposition with the theme of "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life". The Sahel and West Africa Week

will be hosted within the European pavilion and will showcase the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR). The Week will place emphasis on promoting innovative experiences and approaches to food security, with a special focus on gender and climate change.

MAPS & FACTS



The SWAC Secretariat launched in September 2014 a new “Maps & Facts” series, which is published within the weekly NewsBrief. The series is currently showcasing maps extracted from the Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel. All pdf files can be downloaded from our maps website. A jpg version is also available on the SWAC Facebook page and is often published ahead of the NewsBrief.

- ▶ No. 1: Oil in Niger
- ▶ No. 2: Trans-Saharan gas pipeline
- ▶ No. 3: Trans-Saharan road gap
- ▶ No. 4: Niger: internal fragilities & regional threats
- ▶ No. 5: Boko Haram
- ▶ No. 6: Hashish flows
- ▶ No. 7: Cocaine flows
- ▶ No. 8: Tourism in the Sahara-Sahel
- ▶ No. 9: Decline of the nomadic population
- ▶ No. 10: Poverty in northern Mali
- ▶ No. 11: Population in northern Mali
- ▶ No. 12: Communications networks in northern Mali
- ▶ No. 13: Migratory movements
- ▶ No. 14: Population density in the Sahara
- ▶ No. 15: Cigarette trafficking
- ▶ No. 16: Borders in the Sahara-Sahel

SWAC N°1 OCT 2014 Club Secretariat OECD

MAPS & FACTS

OIL IN NIGER

Since 2011, Niger has been a small oil-producing country with a production capacity of 100,000 barrels per day. The country's oil reserves are estimated at 1.5 billion barrels. The oil sector is a key source of revenue for the government and a major employer. The Niger Delta region is the main oil-producing area. The Niger Delta Development Fund (NDDF) was established in 2001 to manage the oil revenue. The Niger Delta is a region of high unemployment and poverty. The Niger Delta is a region of high unemployment and poverty. The Niger Delta is a region of high unemployment and poverty.

Source: SWAC (2014), 'The Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Fragilities, Resilience and Security', SWAC/OCED Secretariat, Paris, 2014, 100-101, 102-103, 104-105, 106-107, 108-109, 110-111, 112-113, 114-115, 116-117, 118-119, 120-121, 122-123, 124-125, 126-127, 128-129, 130-131, 132-133, 134-135, 136-137, 138-139, 140-141, 142-143, 144-145, 146-147, 148-149, 150-151, 152-153, 154-155, 156-157, 158-159, 160-161, 162-163, 164-165, 166-167, 168-169, 170-171, 172-173, 174-175, 176-177, 178-179, 180-181, 182-183, 184-185, 186-187, 188-189, 190-191, 192-193, 194-195, 196-197, 198-199, 200-201, 202-203, 204-205, 206-207, 208-209, 210-211, 212-213, 214-215, 216-217, 218-219, 220-221, 222-223, 224-225, 226-227, 228-229, 230-231, 232-233, 234-235, 236-237, 238-239, 240-241, 242-243, 244-245, 246-247, 248-249, 250-251, 252-253, 254-255, 256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 286-287, 288-289, 290-291, 292-293, 294-295, 296-297, 298-299, 300-301, 302-303, 304-305, 306-307, 308-309, 310-311, 312-313, 314-315, 316-317, 318-319, 320-321, 322-323, 324-325, 326-327, 328-329, 330-331, 332-333, 334-335, 336-337, 338-339, 340-341, 342-343, 344-345, 346-347, 348-349, 350-351, 352-353, 354-355, 356-357, 358-359, 360-361, 362-363, 364-365, 366-367, 368-369, 370-371, 372-373, 374-375, 376-377, 378-379, 380-381, 382-383, 384-385, 386-387, 388-389, 390-391, 392-393, 394-395, 396-397, 398-399, 400-401, 402-403, 404-405, 406-407, 408-409, 410-411, 412-413, 414-415, 416-417, 418-419, 420-421, 422-423, 424-425, 426-427, 428-429, 430-431, 432-433, 434-435, 436-437, 438-439, 440-441, 442-443, 444-445, 446-447, 448-449, 450-451, 452-453, 454-455, 456-457, 458-459, 460-461, 462-463, 464-465, 466-467, 468-469, 470-471, 472-473, 474-475, 476-477, 478-479, 480-481, 482-483, 484-485, 486-487, 488-489, 490-491, 492-493, 494-495, 496-497, 498-499, 500-501, 502-503, 504-505, 506-507, 508-509, 510-511, 512-513, 514-515, 516-517, 518-519, 520-521, 522-523, 524-525, 526-527, 528-529, 530-531, 532-533, 534-535, 536-537, 538-539, 540-541, 542-543, 544-545, 546-547, 548-549, 550-551, 552-553, 554-555, 556-557, 558-559, 560-561, 562-563, 564-565, 566-567, 568-569, 570-571, 572-573, 574-575, 576-577, 578-579, 580-581, 582-583, 584-585, 586-587, 588-589, 590-591, 592-593, 594-595, 596-597, 598-599, 600-601, 602-603, 604-605, 606-607, 608-609, 610-611, 612-613, 614-615, 616-617, 618-619, 620-621, 622-623, 624-625, 626-627, 628-629, 630-631, 632-633, 634-635, 636-637, 638-639, 640-641, 642-643, 644-645, 646-647, 648-649, 650-651, 652-653, 654-655, 656-657, 658-659, 660-661, 662-663, 664-665, 666-667, 668-669, 670-671, 672-673, 674-675, 676-677, 678-679, 680-681, 682-683, 684-685, 686-687, 688-689, 690-691, 692-693, 694-695, 696-697, 698-699, 700-701, 702-703, 704-705, 706-707, 708-709, 710-711, 712-713, 714-715, 716-717, 718-719, 720-721, 722-723, 724-725, 726-727, 728-729, 730-731, 732-733, 734-735, 736-737, 738-739, 740-741, 742-743, 744-745, 746-747, 748-749, 750-751, 752-753, 754-755, 756-757, 758-759, 760-761, 762-763, 764-765, 766-767, 768-769, 770-771, 772-773, 774-775, 776-777, 778-779, 780-781, 782-783, 784-785, 786-787, 788-789, 790-791, 792-793, 794-795, 796-797, 798-799, 800-801, 802-803, 804-805, 806-807, 808-809, 810-811, 812-813, 814-815, 816-817, 818-819, 820-821, 822-823, 824-825, 826-827, 828-829, 830-831, 832-833, 834-835, 836-837, 838-839, 840-841, 842-843, 844-845, 846-847, 848-849, 850-851, 852-853, 854-855, 856-857, 858-859, 860-861, 862-863, 864-865, 866-867, 868-869, 870-871, 872-873, 874-875, 876-877, 878-879, 880-881, 882-883, 884-885, 886-887, 888-889, 890-891, 892-893, 894-895, 896-897, 898-899, 900-901, 902-903, 904-905, 906-907, 908-909, 910-911, 912-913, 914-915, 916-917, 918-919, 920-921, 922-923, 924-925, 926-927, 928-929, 930-931, 932-933, 934-935, 936-937, 938-939, 940-941, 942-943, 944-945, 946-947, 948-949, 950-951, 952-953, 954-955, 956-957, 958-959, 960-961, 962-963, 964-965, 966-967, 968-969, 970-971, 972-973, 974-975, 976-977, 978-979, 980-981, 982-983, 984-985, 986-987, 988-989, 990-991, 992-993, 994-995, 996-997, 998-999, 1000-1001.

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MAPS & FACTS

THE TRANS-SAHARAN GAS PIPELINE

A gas pipeline is a long-distance pipeline that carries gas from the production area to the consumption area. The Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline is a proposed pipeline that would run from the Niger Delta region to the Mediterranean coast. The pipeline would be 4,000 km long and would have a capacity of 10 billion cubic meters per year. The pipeline would be a major source of revenue for the government and a major employer. The pipeline would be a major source of revenue for the government and a major employer. The pipeline would be a major source of revenue for the government and a major employer.

Source: SWAC (2014), 'The Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Fragilities, Resilience and Security', SWAC/OCED Secretariat, Paris, 2014, 100-101, 102-103, 104-105, 106-107, 108-109, 110-111, 112-113, 114-115, 116-117, 118-119, 120-121, 122-123, 124-125, 126-127, 128-129, 130-131, 132-133, 134-135, 136-137, 138-139, 140-141, 142-143, 144-145, 146-147, 148-149, 150-151, 152-153, 154-155, 156-157, 158-159, 160-161, 162-163, 164-165, 166-167, 168-169, 170-171, 172-173, 174-175, 176-177, 178-179, 180-181, 182-183, 184-185, 186-187, 188-189, 190-191, 192-193, 194-195, 196-197, 198-199, 200-201, 202-203, 204-205, 206-207, 208-209, 210-211, 212-213, 214-215, 216-217, 218-219, 220-221, 222-223, 224-225, 226-227, 228-229, 230-231, 232-233, 234-235, 236-237, 238-239, 240-241, 242-243, 244-245, 246-247, 248-249, 250-251, 252-253, 254-255, 256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 286-287, 288-289, 290-291, 292-293, 294-295, 296-297, 298-299, 300-301, 302-303, 304-305, 306-307, 308-309, 310-311, 312-313, 314-315, 316-317, 318-319, 320-321, 322-323, 324-325, 326-327, 328-329, 330-331, 332-333, 334-335, 336-337, 338-339, 340-341, 342-343, 344-345, 346-347, 348-349, 350-351, 352-353, 354-355, 356-357, 358-359, 360-361, 362-363, 364-365, 366-367, 368-369, 370-371, 372-373, 374-375, 376-377, 378-379, 380-381, 382-383, 384-385, 386-387, 388-389, 390-391, 392-393, 394-395, 396-397, 398-399, 400-401, 402-403, 404-405, 406-407, 408-409, 410-411, 412-413, 414-415, 416-417, 418-419, 420-421, 422-423, 424-425, 426-427, 428-429, 430-431, 432-433, 434-435, 436-437, 438-439, 440-441, 442-443, 444-445, 446-447, 448-449, 450-451, 452-453, 454-455, 456-457, 458-459, 460-461, 462-463, 464-465, 466-467, 468-469, 470-471, 472-473, 474-475, 476-477, 478-479, 480-481, 482-483, 484-485, 486-487, 488-489, 490-491, 492-493, 494-495, 496-497, 498-499, 500-501, 502-503, 504-505, 506-507, 508-509, 510-511, 512-513, 514-515, 516-517, 518-519, 520-521, 522-523, 524-525, 526-527, 528-529, 530-531, 532-533, 534-535, 536-537, 538-539, 540-541, 542-543, 544-545, 546-547, 548-549, 550-551, 552-553, 554-555, 556-557, 558-559, 560-561, 562-563, 564-565, 566-567, 568-569, 570-571, 572-573, 574-575, 576-577, 578-579, 580-581, 582-583, 584-585, 586-587, 588-589, 590-591, 592-593, 594-595, 596-597, 598-599, 600-601, 602-603, 604-605, 606-607, 608-609, 610-611, 612-613, 614-615, 616-617, 618-619, 620-621, 622-623, 624-625, 626-627, 628-629, 630-631, 632-633, 634-635, 636-637, 638-639, 640-641, 642-643, 644-645, 646-647, 648-649, 650-651, 652-653, 654-655, 656-657, 658-659, 660-661, 662-663, 664-665, 666-667, 668-669, 670-671, 672-673, 674-675, 676-677, 678-679, 680-681, 682-683, 684-685, 686-687, 688-689, 690-691, 692-693, 694-695, 696-697, 698-699, 700-701, 702-703, 704-705, 706-707, 708-709, 710-711, 712-713, 714-715, 716-717, 718-719, 720-721, 722-723, 724-725, 726-727, 728-729, 730-731, 732-733, 734-735, 736-737, 738-739, 740-741, 742-743, 744-745, 746-747, 748-749, 750-751, 752-753, 754-755, 756-757, 758-759, 760-761, 762-763, 764-765, 766-767, 768-769, 770-771, 772-773, 774-775, 776-777, 778-779, 780-781, 782-783, 784-785, 786-787, 788-789, 790-791, 792-793, 794-795, 796-797, 798-799, 800-801, 802-803, 804-805, 806-807, 808-809, 810-811, 812-813, 814-815, 816-817, 818-819, 820-821, 822-823, 824-825, 826-827, 828-829, 830-831, 832-833, 834-835, 836-837, 838-839, 840-841, 842-843, 844-845, 846-847, 848-849, 850-851, 852-853, 854-855, 856-857, 858-859, 860-861, 862-863, 864-865, 866-867, 868-869, 870-871, 872-873, 874-875, 876-877, 878-879, 880-881, 882-883, 884-885, 886-887, 888-889, 890-891, 892-893, 894-895, 896-897, 898-899, 900-901, 902-903, 904-905, 906-907, 908-909, 910-911, 912-913, 914-915, 916-917, 918-919, 920-921, 922-923, 924-925, 926-927, 928-929, 930-931, 932-933, 934-935, 936-937, 938-939, 940-941, 942-943, 944-945, 946-947, 948-949, 950-951, 952-953, 954-955, 956-957, 958-959, 960-961, 962-963, 964-965, 966-967, 968-969, 970-971, 972-973, 974-975, 976-977, 978-979, 980-981, 982-983, 984-985, 986-987, 988-989, 990-991, 992-993, 994-995, 996-997, 998-999, 1000-1001.

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MAPS & FACTS

THE TRANS-SAHARAN ROAD GAP

Digital technologies bridge the physical and the digital divide. The digital divide is the gap between those who have access to information and communication technologies (ICT) and those who do not. The digital divide is a major barrier to economic growth and social development. The digital divide is a major barrier to economic growth and social development. The digital divide is a major barrier to economic growth and social development.

Source: SWAC (2014), 'The Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Fragilities, Resilience and Security', SWAC/OCED Secretariat, Paris, 2014, 100-101, 102-103, 104-105, 106-107, 108-109, 110-111, 112-113, 114-115, 116-117, 118-119, 120-121, 122-123, 124-125, 126-127, 128-129, 130-131, 132-133, 134-135, 136-137, 138-139, 140-141, 142-143, 144-145, 146-147, 148-149, 150-151, 152-153, 154-155, 156-157, 158-159, 160-161, 162-163, 164-165, 166-167, 168-169, 170-171, 172-173, 174-175, 176-177, 178-179, 180-181, 182-183, 184-185, 186-187, 188-189, 190-191, 192-193, 194-195, 196-197, 198-199, 200-201, 202-203, 204-205, 206-207, 208-209, 210-211, 212-213, 214-215, 216-217, 218-219, 220-221, 222-223, 224-225, 226-227, 228-229, 230-231, 232-233, 234-235, 236-237, 238-239, 240-241, 242-243, 244-245, 246-247, 248-249, 250-251, 252-253, 254-255, 256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 286-287, 288-289, 290-291, 292-293, 294-295, 296-297, 298-299, 300-301, 302-303, 304-305, 306-307, 308-309, 310-311, 312-313, 314-315, 316-317, 318-319, 320-321, 322-323, 324-325, 326-327, 328-329, 330-331, 332-333, 334-335, 336-337, 338-339, 340-341, 342-343, 344-345, 346-347, 348-349, 350-351, 352-353, 354-355, 356-357, 358-359, 360-361, 362-363, 364-365, 366-367, 368-369, 370-371, 372-373, 374-375, 376-377, 378-379, 380-381, 382-383, 384-385, 386-387, 388-389, 390-391, 392-393, 394-395, 396-397, 398-399, 400-401, 402-403, 404-405, 406-407, 408-409, 410-411, 412-413, 414-415, 416-417, 418-419, 420-421, 422-423, 424-425, 426-427, 428-429, 430-431, 432-433, 434-435, 436-437, 438-439, 440-441, 442-443, 444-445, 446-447, 448-449, 450-451, 452-453, 454-455, 456-457, 458-459, 460-461, 462-463, 464-465, 466-467, 468-469, 470-471, 472-473, 474-475, 476-477, 478-479, 480-481, 482-483, 484-485, 486-487, 488-489, 490-491, 492-493, 494-495, 496-497, 498-499, 500-501, 502-503, 504-505, 506-507, 508-509, 510-511, 512-513, 514-515, 516-517, 518-519, 520-521, 522-523, 524-525, 526-527, 528-529, 530-531, 532-533, 534-535, 536-537, 538-539, 540-541, 542-543, 544-545, 546-547, 548-549, 550-551, 552-553, 554-555, 556-557, 558-559, 560-561, 562-563, 564-565, 566-567, 568-569, 570-571, 572-573, 574-575, 576-577, 578-579, 580-581, 582-583, 584-585, 586-587, 588-589, 590-591, 592-593, 594-595, 596-597, 598-599, 600-601, 602-603, 604-605, 606-607, 608-609, 610-611, 612-613, 614-615, 616-617, 618-619, 620-621, 622-623, 624-625, 626-627, 628-629, 630-631, 632-633, 634-635, 636-637, 638-639, 640-641, 642-643, 644-645, 646-647, 648-649, 650-651, 652-653, 654-655, 656-657, 658-659, 660-661, 662-663, 664-665, 666-667, 668-669, 670-671, 672-673, 674-675, 676-677, 678-679, 680-681, 682-683, 684-685, 686-687, 688-689, 690-691, 692-693, 694-695, 696-697, 698-699, 700-701, 702-703, 704-705, 706-707, 708-709, 710-711, 712-713, 714-715, 716-717, 718-719, 720-721, 722-723, 724-725, 726-727, 728-729, 730-731, 732-733, 734-735, 736-737, 738-739, 740-741, 742-743, 744-745,

Save the dates - SWAC events in 2015

- ▶ 2-6 March, Lomé, Togo: Restricted meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)
- ▶ 3-4 June, Brussels, Belgium: SWAC at the European Development Days (EDD) - *to be confirmed*
- ▶ 16 June, Paris, France: Meeting of the SWAC Strategy and Policy Group (SPG)
- ▶ 26-30 October, Milan, Italy: 2015 Sahel and West Africa Week, Expo Milano 2015
- ▶ 14-18 December, Madrid, Spain: 31st annual meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)

About SWAC

THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB (SWAC) is an international platform dedicated to regional issues in West Africa.

ITS MISSION is to enhance the effectiveness of regional policies and of partner support for these policies.

KEY FUNCTIONS

- ▶ **Policy dialogue:** particularly focusing on improving co-ordination in the field of food and nutrition, as well as on promoting West African initiatives and positions in global debates.
- ▶ **Strategic reflection:** providing independent analysis, informing debates and building networks.

MEMBERS, OBSERVERS AND PARTNERS

SWAC brings together three West African organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS) and seven OECD member countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States). The European Union is an important partner and contributes to our financing. As Observers, the African Union/NEPAD Agency, Canada and ROPPA are closely associated with our work.

ITS SECRETARIAT is based at the headquarters of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

