



## Report

# Regional consultations on progress on “Zero Hunger Roadmaps” to end hunger and malnutrition in Africa Abidjan, 24-25 June 2019.



Preliminary report prepared by : A+ COACHING

## Executive Summary

After its official launching on the 25th of March 2019, the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) organized a regional consultation as its first major event on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2019. The consultation aimed to discuss common strategic priorities in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, and to determine the means through which CERFAM would support and foster achievement of the priorities. The discussions on common priorities were based on the National Zero Hunger Strategic Review Roadmaps conducted in 16 countries in West and Central Africa.

Around sixty high-level representatives of states, regional institutions, development partners and civil society participated in the regional consultation. The participants represented 18 countries, 15 of them in West and Central Africa.

The following recommendations were made to CERFAM by the participants at the end of the two-day consultation:

- Develop and manage a database to follow-up on the progress of Zero Hunger Roadmaps;
- Set up a platform of discussion and knowledge management for good practices and lessons in the fight against hunger and malnutrition;
- Involve different stakeholders and partners, and coordinate the work of CERFAM with stakeholders in order to reinforce synergies and complementarities in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and to ensure that it is undertaken efficiently;
- Ensure that the work of CERFAM strengthen efforts to deploy good practices in the fight against hunger and malnutrition at community level; and
- Facilitate mobilization of experts to support the deployment of good practices in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

The eleven strategic recommendations emanating from the consultation are explained in detail at the end of the report.

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME REMARKS

### 1.1. Context and justification

In the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), many African countries conducted « Zero Hunger Strategic Reviews » for SDG 2, which aims at ending hunger and eradicating malnutrition in all its forms. Strategic Reviews were conducted under the supervision of Lead Conveners nominated by governments, and they resulted in the development of roadmaps (i.e. Zero Hunger Roadmaps) to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. The process was led by African States with the support of the World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners and implemented through multisectoral platforms for consultation and action to achieve SDG 2 by 2030. In each country, this platform included the public sector, UN agencies, donors, civil society, private sector, academia and research institutions.

Zero Hunger Strategic Reviews, which were conducted through a consultative process with all relevant stakeholders, provide a common understanding of food security and nutrition issues in a country. They identify strengths and weaknesses of the response to these challenges and assist governments and national actors in reaching consensus on priority actions required to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2030, taking inter-dependence between the SDGs into account. They also aim to rally all kinds of support around the goal of eliminating hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

33 out of 55 African countries have so far completed Strategic Reviews: 16 in West and Central Africa, 8 in Southern Africa, 5 in East Africa and 4 in North Africa.

All Zero Hunger Roadmaps have identified South-South co-operation and experience sharing at regional level as a priority to ensure progress towards the SDG2, and to meet food security and nutrition goals set by regional frameworks, such as the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Office in Dakar and the Strategic Partnership (STR) and Policy and Programme (OSZ) Divisions mapped the Strategic Reviews as part of the technical follow-up for the roadmaps; and they summarized the status of implementation of the Zero Hunger Roadmaps at the strategic, policy and programmatic levels.

Within this framework, the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) based in Côte d'Ivoire organized a regional consultation on the progress of the roadmaps for the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in Africa. The consultation took place in Abidjan on 24 and 25 June with the presence of 16 countries from West and Central Africa; these countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo.

## 1.2. Objectives of the Regional Consultation

The main objective of the regional consultation was to identify common strategic priorities of the roadmaps, evaluate their status of execution, and determine the means for CERFAM to guide and foster their implementation. The specific objectives were as follows:

1. Identify the progress on the implementation of Zero Hunger Roadmaps at national level;
2. Identify potential bottlenecks and difficulties;
3. Identify common priority domains of the countries of the region;
4. Identify the mode of guidance and support that CERFAM could carry out to help the parties concerned (governments, regional institutions and other stakeholders) implement the Zero Hunger roadmaps at national, sub-regional and regional level;
5. Define a coordinated approach of CERFAM in collaboration with governmental entities and existing institutional arrangements at sub-regional and regional level; and
6. Examine the possibility to create a regional network of “Ambassadors for elimination of hunger and malnutrition”.

The first day of the regional consultation was divided in two parts: the plenary phase during which the consultation was officially opened, and the phase during which the regional food security and nutrition situation as well as challenges, opportunities and common strategic priorities on which CERFAM could build its strategic action plan were presented and discussed. The second day concentrated mainly on the functioning of existing networks and possible creation of a network of “Ambassadors for elimination of hunger and malnutrition”.

## 1.3. Summary of Plenary Session Speeches

In his welcome speech, Dr. **Issa Sanogo, Director of CERFAM**, expressed his satisfaction regarding the interest and engagement of the partners from the 18 countries of the sub-region, as well as the presence of other UN agencies, regional institutions and civil society.

Dr. Sanogo emphasised that this regional consultation would enable CERFAM to benefit from strategic reflections and orientations on priorities that could contribute to the successful implementation of the Centre’s strategic action plan.

He ended his speech by indicating that CERFAM aims to be a platform for exchange, partnership and south-south co-operation. The core elements are good practices and lessons learnt in the context of the fight against hunger and malnutrition which helps countries make progress towards achievement of SDG 2 in Africa.

The WFP Deputy Regional Director, Mr. Peter Musoko, elaborated on the regional perspective of this consultation. He also stressed opportunities for learning in the region and the continent to achieve the SDGs, especially SDG2.

He suggested that CERFAM is a platform that could bring these opportunities and actions together because it is possible to do more and better collectively. Better performance by using partnership opportunities based on good practices can lead to improvement in the implementation of national programmes and policies.

He also indicated that the regional consultation provided a unique opportunity to increase synergies and complementarities in order to optimise resource for effective implementation of the roadmaps in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, aiming to achieve SDG2 by 2030.

**Mme. Joséphine Mayumba Kala, Representative of the African Union (AU) in Côte d'Ivoire**, analysed the challenges faced by the continent in her speech. These challenges are, among others, population growth, climate change, and environment degradation that are causing hunger and malnutrition which in turn are impacting human functioning and economic development.

She finished with a plea to focus on the cause of high birth rates, among other things, in order to come up with sustainable solutions and for considering these issues when elaborating the roadmap of CERFAM.

**H.E. Mr. Dioncounda Traoré, former interim President of Mali**, discussed his experience as national facilitator of the Zero Hunger Review with the participants. He underlined the role of integrated resilience to advance the process of the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Mr. Traoré pointed out that there are still a lot to learn in terms of the ways in which national processes assist in country development. He recommended capitalizing on resilience building, considering that peace remains the priority.

H.E. Mr. Daniel Kablan Duncan, Vice-President of Côte d'Ivoire, welcomed awareness at national, regional and international level as well as the initiatives and meetings that are moving hunger reduction and malnutrition elimination issues forward.

He stated that different research on the cost of inaction, conducted by the World Bank, UNICEF, WFP and AU, indicate that hunger and malnutrition have a negative impact on economic and social development of our countries and make people vulnerable. Their negative effects on human capital development curb productivity and lower the potential impacts of public expenditure.

In this context, according to the Vice President, CERFAM provides an opportunity to unite all dynamics. It is a centre for jointly sharing experiences regarding the fight to eradicate hunger and malnutrition forever.

These speeches demonstrated the strong commitment of authorities to food security and nutrition and their expectation for implementation of CERFAM activities.

## II. **FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: REGIONAL CONTEXT, CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES**

### 2.1. **Food security and nutrition situation in the region**

The speakers for this session, Mr. Pascal Sanguinga from FAO and Mr. Denis Garnier from UNICEF, presented the situation, challenges and opportunities related to food insecurity and malnutrition in West and Central Africa.

The main points of their presentations are as follows:

- The benefits resulting from the reduction of prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition have been fading away since 2016. The main reasons are conflicts, fall in the price of raw materials, climate challenges and decline in agricultural investment, which represent a real challenge for achieving SDG2.
- However, some countries (Senegal, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Mali and Togo) have been making progress due to their strong political commitment and significant investment.
- The prevalence of stunting among children 5-year-old and under deserve particular attention because it has a negative impact on the cognitive and social development of children and is a barrier to national development.
- Gender inequalities and low education lead to malnutrition: 45% of women of reproductive age are anemic and 88% of children between the ages of 6 and 23 months don't have access to healthy diet.
- The budget deficit in nutrition is enormous in sub-regional countries.

#### ***Main points of discussion and contributions***

- The role of CERFAM should not be limited to monitoring; CERFAM should also serve as a support mechanism for countries to accelerate achievement of SDG2 through experience sharing.
- It is necessary to consider national and local contexts for applying good practices.
- Educational attainment is a key indicator in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.
- The fight against malnutrition must be multi-dimensional and -sectorial.
- It is necessary to identify solutions that are adjusted to national contexts, and scaling up must focus on children, youth and women.

- The available arable land in Africa should be considered as an opportunity to eliminate hunger: it represents 23% of arable land in the world, and only 60% of the African arable land is in use.
- The example of Ethiopia should be followed, as she managed to efficiently allocate the country's budget to food security and nutrition.
- Develop a common results framework at community level.

## 2.2. Review of Zero Hunger Roadmaps in the Region

This session provided an occasion to discuss the common priorities, which had been identified in the Zero Hunger Strategic Review Roadmaps conducted by 16 countries of the sub-region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal and Togo). The Roadmaps were presented by **Dr. Chris Toe of WFP**, and the CERFAM strategic orientations were subsequently presented by **Dr. Issa Sanogo, Director of CERFAM**.

The presentation of common priorities showed that the Zero Hunger Strategic Review Roadmaps share the objectives of achieving SDG2 and some transversal issues, such as good governance.

In addition, it was noted that: (i) SDG2 is connected to other SDGs; and (ii) CERFAM must consider collaboration and join action as priorities to build synergies and complementarities in different sectors.

Based on the common priorities of Zero Hunger Roadmaps, the presentation of strategic orientations reaffirmed the context that led to the founding of CERFAM, and has informed its mission, vision, main pillars and strategic objectives. These are as follows:

- The **mission** of CERFAM is to support governments and partners to accelerate progress towards SDG2
- CERFAM's **vision** is to ensure that all partners can easily have access to knowledge and

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