Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative 2020-2030

A picture containing grass, outdoor, field, cow

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Key strategic priorities and intervention areas



**Index**

1. Background and Rationale
2. Review of National Societies FSL Experience and Capacity in Africa
3. Drivers of Food Insecurity
4. The Result Framework of Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative
5. The Federation wide added value
6. Linkages with Global and Pan African Commitments
7. Resource mobilization strategy
8. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
9. Sustainability

# 1 - Background and Rationale

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest prevalence of hunger of any region in the world. It is estimated that nearly **240[[1]](#footnote-2) million people in the region lack adequate food** for a healthy and active life. The *Global Report on Food Crises* of 2019 indicates that more than **69 million people living in Africa** **were experiencing acute hunger.** *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020* reports that the percentage of undernourished people in Africa is increasing and had moved to 19.1% of the population in 2019, or more than 250 million undernourished people, up from 17.6% in 2014[[2]](#footnote-3). Indeed, these cursory proportions suggest that Africa is significantly off track to achieve the Zero Hunger target by 2030[[3]](#footnote-4).

The vulnerable populations of Africa have had a prolonged exposure to extreme risk driven by recurrent **climate disasters[[4]](#footnote-5)**, **poor access to basic services**, political and socioeconomic instability **and social unrest**, **governance crisis** and **poor resource management.** These have culminated in population displacements and migration, unprecedented epidemics, unplanned and unsafe urbanization, inequality, and exclusion which collectively reproduce to result in violence, extreme poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and eventually higher rates of morbidity and mortality. Against this background, the IFRC Regional Office developed the **IFRC in Africa: Road Map 2017-2020** to show its commitment to accompanying National Societies in their development and delivery of services in Africa**.** One of the eight priorities in the Road map was that “*Communities are better prepared to meet the challenges caused by food insecurity, chronic undernourishment and hunger in the short-term, and are more resilient and secure in the long-term”,* showing commitment of the IFRC to **Livelihoods and food security** in Africa.

For the past decade, food security and livelihoods programming has increasingly been seen by partners within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as key to addressing humanitarian needs and facilitating the recovery process of individuals, households, and communities. The first strategic objective of the IFRC Strategy 2020 was aimed at protecting livelihoods[[5]](#footnote-6). The new Strategy 2030 refers directly to livelihoods as a key area under the second goal- *People lead safe, healthy and dignified lives, and have opportunities to thrive.* Strategy 2030 highlight livelihoods and food security as challenges the world will face in the next decade. Though not directly mentioned, food security and livelihoods are a fundamental component to achieve all the other goals. Indeed, FSL interventions are taking a centre stage as a response to the challenges related to climate and environmental crisis, evolving disasters, growing gaps in health and well-being, migrations and identity and the crisis of values, power, and inclusion.

Many other RCRC global initiatives and policies address the need to promote resilient livelihoods as a means towards food and economic security, improved health, and well-being as the case with the IFRC Disaster Risk Management Policy (2019) and the new IFRC Recovery Road Map. Recent RCRC large scale response operations have translated these policies into practice, by including a recovery approach to the appeals, particularly focusing on transitioning from basic needs to livelihoods recovery and protection[[6]](#footnote-7). FSL experience is also not lacking within the movement in Africa. Presently, 20 National Societies are involved in the implementation of 77 FSL related projects, representing a total investment of CHF81.14 million.

The context we live today, when all countries in the world are struggling with the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and adopting mitigation measures to protect public health, reinforce the need for a **Pan-African integrated vision**. This development pathway calls for a common approach that fosters the path to resilience by bridging the humanitarian, recovery, and development divide. Basic needs provision continues not only to be lifesaving, but also, a means to recover and protect livelihoods and socio-economic security following a people centred approach that leaves no one behind.

The newly adopted Strategy 2030 presents the opportunity to define the strategic direction which the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement wants to adopt into the foreseeable future. The Africa FSL Strategic program, therefore, build on this shared vision and intents to provide the RCRC in Africa, a common ground for working towards a common goal.

# 2 - Review of the National Societies FSL Experience in Africa

FSL programming is not new to the RCRC. An IFRC FSL survey in carried out in September 2020, where 36 NSs responded, shows that **FSL is part of almost all NSs’ strategy, while more than 85% of NSs have been implementing FSL interventions**, at all stages of the response (emergency to development) and within diverse operational contexts. While the bulk of the experience[[7]](#footnote-8) has been built in rural areas where NSs have traditionally been more familiar, 40% of them have extended their livelihood experience in IGA, Community projects and Early Warnings/Early actions interventions. Urban settings are more complex and few NSs are getting to respond[[8]](#footnote-9) while more NS will be more exposed in the future.

From emergency responses promoting access to food and other basic needs and protecting livelihoods to multi-country resilience programs (Lake Chad and Lake Victoria Basin Initiative, River Nile, River Senegal and Zambezi River Basin Initiatives) the types of interventions are many and varied. RCRC Humanitarian Response, while addressing the basic needs comprehensively, equally focus on livelihoods as one of its most important areas of response. In order to address the deteriorating food situation in certain hotspot countries, the IFRC is currently supporting the African National Societies through emergency appeals[[9]](#footnote-10) such as Southern Africa - Food Insecurity Crisis ([MDR63003](https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/3925)), Africa Region - Locust upsurge ([MDR60005](https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/4228)), Niger - Complex Emergency ([MDRNE021](https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/544)), Zambia - Food Insecurity ([MDRZM012](https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/3758)) and Mauritania - Food Insecurity ([MDRMR011](https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/4640)). Furthermore, the Africa’s **COVID-19 response** has also integrated food security and livelihoods (FSL) interventions, to address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. More than 33 African NS are implementing FSL activities, and 24 NS have chosen the use of cash or voucher interventions to deliver support for basic needs in their countries.

Based on the mapping carried out by the IFRC regional office (RO) on **Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Programs** in the 1Q of 2020, more than 25 African National Societies implemented food security and livelihood projects and programs during the 5 years leading to 2020. According to the information gathered *(Note, not all NS have responded)*, investment in FSL programs exceeds CHF 81.14 million implement across more than 77 projects[[10]](#footnote-11) supported by 17 different partners (Movement and non-Movement).

Food Security and Livelihoods RC/RC expertise vary from:

* Programming supporting **food production** in rural, urban and peri-urban settings (agricultural and livestock programs aimed at vulnerable individuals and/or cooperatives and groups)
* Interventions aimed to create and **strengthen income-generating activities (IGA)** through grants, technical support and coaching addressed to vulnerable groups (young people, women, migrants/returnees, etc.)
* Actions and initiatives for **land restoration** and promotion of **sustainable management of natural resources**; **climate -smart livelihood** and climate change adaptation initiatives aimed at building community resilience
* Creation and support of **savings and loans groups** to facilitate the access to credit and strengthen women's empowerment (See the holistic RCRC Movement approach called Mothers Club)
* Promotion and improvement of **market links** and the **value chain** of small producers and businesses
* **Early Warning / Early Actions** programs, coordinated with national institutions and other actors, aiming to monitoring food security and livelihoods situation (sentinel sites and community-based monitoring), to prepare communities and to early response (See Forecast based Financing -FbF- mechanism).

Experience has been gained over years in the Africa region and at a different pace amongst the NSs. Currently 40% of NSs have FSL team with more than 5years of experience, FSL department and focal point, mainly in the Sahel region. Almost 250 staff are involved in FSL interventions from NSs surveyed. More than 40 % of those NSs have up to 2 staff trained in Livelihoods, 28% up to 5 staff, and 17% with more than 5 staff trained. NSs can count on 300 additional people/volunteers experienced/trained from previous FSL interventions.

The presence of key NSs well experienced is a driver for building livelihoods capacities to other NS and resilient communities. More than half of African NS have implemented FSL interventions through cash and in the process to be cash ready, which will support NS to respond quickly and at scale when needed. More specifically Sahel is currently implementing a FSL preparedness/capacity building programme for the past years in partnership with British Red Cross, building a pool as well of FSL technical focal point amongst 10NSs in the region.

To achieve longer term objectives of the FSL responses, concomitant responses, and comprehensive approach to FSL in Africa, it may require further strengthening and developing the IFRC capacities in the region. *A more holistic programming approach is being supported by an ambitious and solid strategy for FSL in Africa*

Livelihood Resource Centre Support

One of the [*IFRC- Livelihoods Resource Centre (LRC)*](https://www.livelihoodscentre.org) key objective is strengthening African´s National Society capacity in Food Security and Livelihoods, providing technical assistance, trainings and creating and sharing tools and guidance to allow NS design, plan and implement comprehensive livelihoods programmes. Support has been provided to National Societies and IFRC operations for assessments, baseline surveys, program design, training, evaluations, development of case studies, etc. The Livelihoods Centre has already supported significantly up to 25 African NS within the latest years.

Supporting National Societies in capacity building trough trainings and resources creations and sharing are another two key services that the Livelihoods Centre offers to RCRC Movement. So far over 648 practitioners from 40 African National Societies, ICRC, IFRC and PNS working in Africa region, have been trained by the Livelihoods resource centre in Livelihoods programming, FSL needs assessment and CVA courses as well as Training of Trainers courses.

Additionally, to the Livelihood resource centres regular work, a Global service has been created to address socioeconomic and basic needs impacts of [*Covid-19*](https://www.livelihoodscentre.org/covid-19-resources) crisis, such *as* [*Covid-19 helpdesk*](mailto:covid19-livelihoods@cruzroja.es), resource creation, online global-wide trainings.

# 3 - Drivers of Food Insecurity in Africa

Most countries in the African continent struggle with lack of governance, economic recession, climate hazards and often political and socioeconomic instability, driving severe vulnerabilities such as high poverty rates, chronic and acute malnutrition as well as undernourishment, food insecurity, fragile and intermittent livelihoods, and weak health and social protection systems, already at strain in normal times.

Pre-existing conditions: [deep poverty and vulnerability will be increasingly concentrated in countries affected by fragility](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2016/08/19/tackling-fragility-conflict-and-violence-with-development-solutions), political and socioeconomic instability and violence, where almost half of the world’s poor are expected to live by 2030, mostly in Africa and the Middle East. Overall, the persistence of inequalities adversely impacts the well-being, access to basic services and jeopardizes the economic opportunities of the poor. There are large segments of the population on the verge of poverty and marginalization. The Global Report on Food Crises from WFP indicates that at the end of 2019, 73 million people living in Africa were experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). Over a third of the new extreme poor will be concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa

Covid-19 is exacerbating structural issues in many countries and governmental containment measures (movement restrictions of people, goods, livestock, trades) imposed to cope with the pandemic, albeit necessary, have an immediate and medium to long term impact on households´ food and economic security. The impact on food and nutrition security will be especially harmful in countries with weak economies which are less resilient to economic shocks and in countries with minimal social protection. The impact of Covid-19 is expected to be more severe among populations affected by food scarcity and malnutrition, as a weakened immune system because of undernourishment poses greater risks of contracting serious illnesses. According to *Fewsnet*, the Covid-19 pandemic could push above 100 million people into IPC-3 and worst by Feb 2021. Countries currently in IPC3 – acute food insecurity - may be falling into IPC4 – emergency – in DRC and Somalia, and some areas in IPC5 – famine - in South Sudan and north-east Nigeria

Migration and displacements: Migration often is adopted as a livelihoods strategy for people in order diversify their livelihoods and find new economic opportunities or as coping mechanism to recover from shocks. Chronic food insecurity is also a consequence of complex crisis that combines poverty, political and socioeconomic instability and/or climate change effects. While food insecurity crisis is happening in African countries, some countries are, at the same time, origins of large migration flows and destination for others. Nevertheless, poverty lead people to migration, it is also demonstrated that the option of migration often is not accessible to those very poor. And thus, poverty has double effect on migration: it provides a motivation for migrating, which is a popular livelihood strategy feasible to many, however, it also limits the prospects for migration especially for the poorest and hence their livelihood options.

Climate change and environmental crisis: Climate change and extreme events are damaging food production, increasing food insecurity and malnutrition among the most vulnerable populations. Climate change is expected to have negative impacts on all 4 pillars of Food Security: availability (impact on prices), access (food shortages), utilization (poor quality nutrition) and stability. The effects observed so far are mainly on availability. In low-income countries, around 80% of the population lives from agriculture (including livestock, fishing, etc.). The most vulnerable groups are 100% dependent on the climate to develop their livelihoods (rain, pasture, etc.), making them the groups most at risk from climate change and its effects. In addition to political and socioeconomic instability, climate variability and extremes are among the key drivers behind the recent uptick in global hunger and one of the leading causes of severe food crises.As weather becomes more extreme and unpredictable it compromises peoples’ ability to grow food to feed themselves and to generate an income. Rural livelihoods and food security heavily depend on agriculture and the natural resource base (rainfed farming and agriculture as their main source of sustenance) and are therefore particularly vulnerable to climate change and variability. According to **UN Report 2019**, more than **500 million people today live in areas affected by erosion linked to climate change**. Higher temperatures, water scarcity, extreme events like droughts and floods, and greater CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere have already begun to impact staple crops around the world. Maize and wheat production have declined in recent years due to extreme weather events, plant diseases, and an overall increase in water scarcity. According to FAO (2019), the unpredictable yield for cereal crops in semi-arid regions of the world (like the Sahel region of Africa) is at least 80% the result of climate variability. In Africa, climate change will amplify existing pressure on water availability and agricultural systems, particularly in semi-arid environments (IPCC)

Gender equality and diversity: Women and girls are over-represented among the poor and more likely to be affected by food insecurity than men. While it is generally recognized that gender equality and respect for diversity are essential for social and humanitarian action, persistent disparities continue to affect women’s rights and undermine their access to resources, knowledge and services, (health, education, finance). Even when women are included in the labour market, they continue to be marginalised and employed in least-productive or less-profitable sectors of the economy. Given the key role of women in developing countries in agriculture and food production, improved gender equality would contribute to increased production, productivity, and a significant reduction of global undernourishment.

Concomitant crisis: food insecurity will be exacerbated as population, governments and humanitarian aid are already coping with other major and overlapping crisis such as: floods in West Africa, Sudan, Madagascar; food insecurity (chronic in Sahel, acute in Southern Africa); desert locusts invasion in Eastern African moving to Burkina Faso; or the already tangled up in economic crisis like in Zimbabwe and Sudan or in political and socioeconomic instability -affected context in some parts of Sahel and Central Africa

Political and socioeconomic instability and social tensions and food insecurity are often closely connected. In 2017, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimated that around 60% of undernourished individuals and 79% of stunted children globally live in countries affected by violent political and socioeconomic instability. Protracted and ongoing conflicts leave populations particularly vulnerable to both the climate crisis and food insecurity. Food insecurity can itself become a trigger of civil conflict. For instance, Somalia has been damaged by decades of conflict and instability, extreme weather such as floods or droughts have been threatening people’s food security, forcing many to leave. In Northeast Nigeria and South Sudan, a risk of famine persists with people living in refugee camps being particularly at risk and in need of humanitarian food assistance. The escalation of violence in North-East Nigeria in recent years has led to hundreds of thousands of people being displaced and left precariously short of food. It has become a cross-border protracted political and socioeconomic instability affecting South Cameroon, West-Chad and South-East Niger which all sit on Lake Chad. Periodic political and socioeconomic instability and a dramatic rise in food prices will continue to lead to extreme food insecurity levels in South Sudan during 2020. Violence has spread in the Sahel region especially in the contiguous region of Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali where 12.3% of the population is food insecure (phase 3) as of June 2020.

Areas of special attention and key risk drivers

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| **Country/Region** | **Key risk drivers and vulnerabilities** |
| South Sudan – 7,5 to 10 million people in need of urgent assistance  Risk of famine (Jonglei and Upper Nile) | * Extremely poor macroeconomic conditions impacting household economic security and access to markets * COVID-19 restrictions and political and socioeconomic instability in certain areas affects trade, reduce livelihood opportunities and humanitarian access * Political and socioeconomic instability has affected food availability, livelihoods and income sources, and eroded coping capacity * Floods and desert locusts have destroyed crops and threatens livestock production, and continue to trigger displacement |
| Nigeria – 5 to 7,5 million people in need of urgent assistance  Risk of famine | * The political and socioeconomic instability and insecurity in northeast, northwest and central states continue to trigger displacement and limiting livelihood options. * Floods in the northwest has destroyed over 25% of the planted rice crops * COVID-19 restrictions limit international trade, as well as the internal market supply chain |
| East Africa – 16 to 18 million people in need of urgent assistance (greater than 100% increase expected in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda) | * Locusts infestations * Flash floods resulting in crop destruction and displacement, also impacting recovery from droughts in previous years * COVID-19 movement restrictions and consequent reductions in formal and informal business activity, sales of crops and livestock, remittance inflows, and tourism. * Forecasted below average rainfall will impact crop and livestock production. * Rising food prices in Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia particularly, due to reduction in export earnings and currency depreciation. |
| DRC – 7.5 to 10 million people in need of assistance in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika | * Disease outbreaks (COVID-19, Ebola, cholera and so on) * Ongoing conflicts in 4 provinces have caused massive displacement and affected household ability to access livelihood activities and markets * Border crossing closure with Burundi affects regional trade, especially for small traders in the informal sector, as well as access to inputs * Early lean season is ongoing in the east due to poor performance of previous agricultural season |
| Zimbabwe and Mozambique – 5 to 8 million people in need of assistance | * Extremely poor macroeconomic conditions * Strict COVID-19 movement restrictions, reducing household income and access to food * Two consecutive poor agricultural seasons, caused by floods and cyclones * Over 700% annual inflation rate in Zimbabwe, driving high prices for staple foods. * Severe drought in Southern Mozambique * Political and socioeconomic instability and displacement in Northern Mozambique, reducing access to livelihoods and markets |
| Madagascar | * Pre-existing vulnerabilities * Recurring food insecurity * Impact of climate change * Covid-19 and other diseases |

# 4 - The Result Framework of Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative

National Societies are key actors in efforts to stabilize basic household consumption and to prevent further depletion of key livelihood assets after a crisis or disaster(such assistance is mostly done through cash transfers). Integrating livelihood protection into emergency response implies that people are supported to maintain their activities by enabling them to protect their assets. The rapid response of National Societies in meeting the most immediate basic needs (including food) and protecting livelihoods in the short-term is made possible through well-established IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) and Emergency Appeal (EA) funding mechanisms.

Livelihood activities are diverse and frequently seasonal and climate-related and socioeconomic shocks and stresses effect each one of them differently. These shocks and stresses do not obey a strict chronological order and are often recurrent and concomitant. Hunger, food security, and malnutrition in Africa are also long-time systemic issues and challenges linked to transformative structure and processes, including policies and laws, governance, and social and cultural norms that create barriers for women, youth, and other marginalised groups. It is, therefore, not possible to separate emergency, recovery, and longer-term programming and resilience building.

IFRC DREFs and EAs provide the basis for early recovery/recovery interventions that contribute to resilience building. However, conventional humanitarian response operations under these funding mechanisms or fragmented project-based food security and livelihood interventions supported by country plans are neither adequate nor transformative, as they do not address the underlying issues and overlapping needs of crisis and disaster affected groups. Nor do they make communities better prepared for and more resilient to the effects of shocks and stresses. This requires a “contiguum” or “nexus” approach, which implies a transversal focus where emergency, recovery, and development interventions are simultaneously implemented at distinct points in time (even if funded by separate instruments) to respond to different yet overlapping needs, including the need to anticipate and mitigate disasters and food security crisis while building resilience of communities and households to shocks and stressors. It also requires integrating conflict-sensitive approaches into the design and management of programmes and projects.

Synergies between emergency operations under DREFs and EAs and longer-term programming in National Societies’ country plans will be promoted. A holistic, sequenced programmatic, and multistakeholder strategy is needed to address recurrent food insecurity crisis as well as to strengthen the RC/RC Movement coordination and external collaboration on food security programming in Africa.

Significant progress towards the zero-hunger goal can only be achieved through the adoption of an approach that is ambitious harmonized and scalable and the design of programmes that are evidence-based and impact driven. A common RCRC vision and strategy with localized actions should be undertaken, simultaneously creating complementarity between humanitarian actions (DREFs/EAs) and longer-term programming (2021-2030 planning). The Pan-Africa FSL strategic framework was designed to be focussed, scalable and high impact, with concrete actions that build on the RCRC added value and position. Three program areas are developed and are expected to deliver towards the ultimate Zero Hunger goal by 2030.

The Framework: Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative

**Goal:** By 2030, up to 25% of people vulnerable to food insecurity in Africa lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives, free of hunger and reduce poverty and with opportunities to thrive.

**Intermediate Objective:** To enhance the resilience for and self-reliance in food security of up to 25% of vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises in Africa, including women and young people.

The intermediate objective is expected to be achieved through three outcomes and a set of broad intervention areas that are context specific within the African region. These outcomes mirror the foundational pillars of the IFRC FSL strategy for Africa, also referred to as program tiers. Program areas recognise the need to align livelihood interventions with changing household vulnerability and needs. Hence, interventions are designed around smoothing consumption and income; asset protection and recovery; strengthening risk and loss management strategies, including self-insurance; strengthening and growing assets; and diversifying livelihood strategies depending on the types of risks that the household is exposed to.

**Outcome 1:** Poor households are able to effectively protect, recover, and grow their livelihoods through timely and scalable safety nets and social assistance.

**Indicators**

* % Reduction in targeted households that adopt stress, crisis, or emergency coping strategies following a shock or crisis, by year
* X% of targeted households that are stabilizing consumption (of essential goods and services) in time of crisis/stress, by year X
* % of targeted households that are effectively managing production and income risks and losses, and economic uncertainty, by year X
* % of targeted households reached that maintain, restore or grow their productive assets, by year X

**Outcome 2:** Food consumption and nutritional standards of urban and rural households vulnerable to food insecurity are met and enhanced.

**Indicators**

* % of targeted households that are able to maintain and / or restore their food consumption [do not employ negative consumption-based coping strategies] during times of crisis / stress, by year X
* % of targeted households that have access to adequate and diversified diets at all times, by year X
* % Reduction in the number of stunted children aged 6-59 months old in targeted urban and rural households, by year X
* % of children 6-59 months of age with reduced prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition among target population, by year X
* % of pregnant and lactating women with reduced prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition among target population, by year X

**Outcome 3:** Socially and economically disadvantaged rural and urban households have diversified and resilient on-, off-farm, and non-agricultural livelihood strategies, prioritizing women’s and young people’s economic inclusion.

**Indicators**

* % of targeted households from vulnerable group(s) that gained and retained new employment/self-employment, by year X
* % of targeted households (of which X% headed by a young person and X% female-headed) that have increased value-addition and returns in on-farm, off-farm, and/or non-agriculture work, by year X
* % of targeted households (of which X% headed by a young person and X% female-headed) that complement agriculture-based livelihoods with off-farm work, by year X
* % of targeted households (of which X% headed by a young person and X% female-headed) in urban and rural areas that secure non-farm livelihoods with higher returns, by year X
* % of targeted households (of which X% headed by a young person and X% female-headed) that increase income, build savings, accumulate assets, and/or access micro-credit or insurance through on-farm, off-farm, and non-agriculture diversification, by year X

Broad intervention areas

**Outcome 1**

**Scale-up food security and livelihood safety net and social assistance interventions, coupled with anticipatory action:**

*Scaling-up of cash transfers to provide timely one-off, recurrent, or seasonal safety nets for the protection of consumption and livelihood productive assets during a disaster or crisis or more predictable and regular support for livelihoods strengthening [including multipurpose cash grants and cash-for-work].*

A cash transfer is an important modality to help vulnerable households cope with crisis. It allows households to protect themselves against food consumption, production, and income shocks, including through avoiding the sale of key productive assets. This modality is at the core of the RCRC effectiveness in emergency response.

Today cash and voucher assistance, especially multipurpose cash transfers, is rapidly rolled-out through DREFs and EAs across the Africa region. The objectives of assistance are to meet basic needs, including food consumption, protect key livelihood assets, and to a certain extent restore livelihoods. However, the potential of multipurpose cash transfers to contribute to medium- and longer-term food security objectives and resilience building still needs to be realized by National Societies.

Through emergency appeals and country operational plans, National Societies will complement a range of food security and livelihoods interventions with mainly multipurpose cash transfers. Cash will be disbursed as part of short-term one-off, recurrent, or seasonal humanitarian or social safety nets. Multipurpose cash transfers as a modality in food security and livelihood interventions will also take the form of reliable and predictable medium to longer-term social transfers to enhance recipients’ risk management capacity and planning. Especially when coupled with anticipatory action and other complementary activities (e.g. awareness-raising and trainings, savings and loans, and facilitation of access to basic and market services), medium to longer-term transfers can support households to effectively prepare for and manage production and income risks and losses and economic uncertainty, but also to grow their assets and diversify their livelihood strategies.

**Outcome 2**

**Invest in resilient and nutrition-sensitive food solutions:**

The Zero Hunger initiative aims to accelerate climate-smart food production and balanced nutrition in urban and rural settings through investing in small-scale agricultural production, post-harvest management, and processing and supporting communities and households to grow healthy food and consume a diversified diet.

Constituting over 70% of the African livelihoods, smallholder farmers, of which women constitute approximately 40% of labour have been the most affected by recurrent disasters and crises. Loss of production has increased due to multiple and recurrent hazards as well as conflict and political instability that have also disrupted markets and value chains. The low value of produce, post-harvest losses, poor rural infrastructure, and lack of access to technology as well as technical and financial resources is hindering the development of a crucial sector. Investing in smallholder farmers around these areas is key due to the potential they represent to countries and communities. Context-specific nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart practices around agricultural value chains will be promoted for healthy and diversified diets and enhanced household resilience. Communities will also be supported to carry out nutrition awareness, monitoring, and referrals.

**Outcome** **3**

**Foster resilient and sustainable livelihood diversification, through support to viable income-generation and entrepreneurial development in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors,** including by strengthening community self-help groups and facilitating market linkages, value chain integration, and access to financial and other livelihood enhancing services.

As urbanization is a rapidly evolving reality, it is likely that youth from rural areas will continue to migrant to big towns and cities in search of new livelihood opportunities, which are often precarious and low return activities. Urban centres are not always prepared to accommodate this additional workforce, and diversifying options in rural areas linking to urban economies will be key in the coming years. The RCRC shall invest in youth and women’s socioeconomic projects by fostering entrepreneurial development through technical support and seed money, facilitating access to affordable financial and other livelihood enhancing services adapted to their needs, and supporting self-help groups, including savings and loans groups and cooperatives. Value addition in on-farm and off-farm activities will be key to livelihood diversification as well as the facilitation of market linkages and value chain integration.

# 5 - The Federation wide added value

The Food Security and Livelihood Africa Strategic Framework is aligned with the global, regional, and sub-regional policies produced in the past years, the lessons from extensive FSL practice across a wide range of Africa National Societies, and the technical expertise that exists in the different components of the movement. The FSL Strategic Framework will also contribute to the wider Pan-African goals established by multilateral institutions and governments (as defined in points below). In addition, the RCRC movement will actively coordinating with external partners such as WFP, FAO, SADC, AU, the African Risk Capacity (ARC), Africa Regional Humanitarian Partnerships Team (RHPT), Regional Interagency Standing Committee, Southern Africa, Regional Economic Commissions and other key agencies and governments for promoting coordination and collaborations in reaching Zero Hunger.

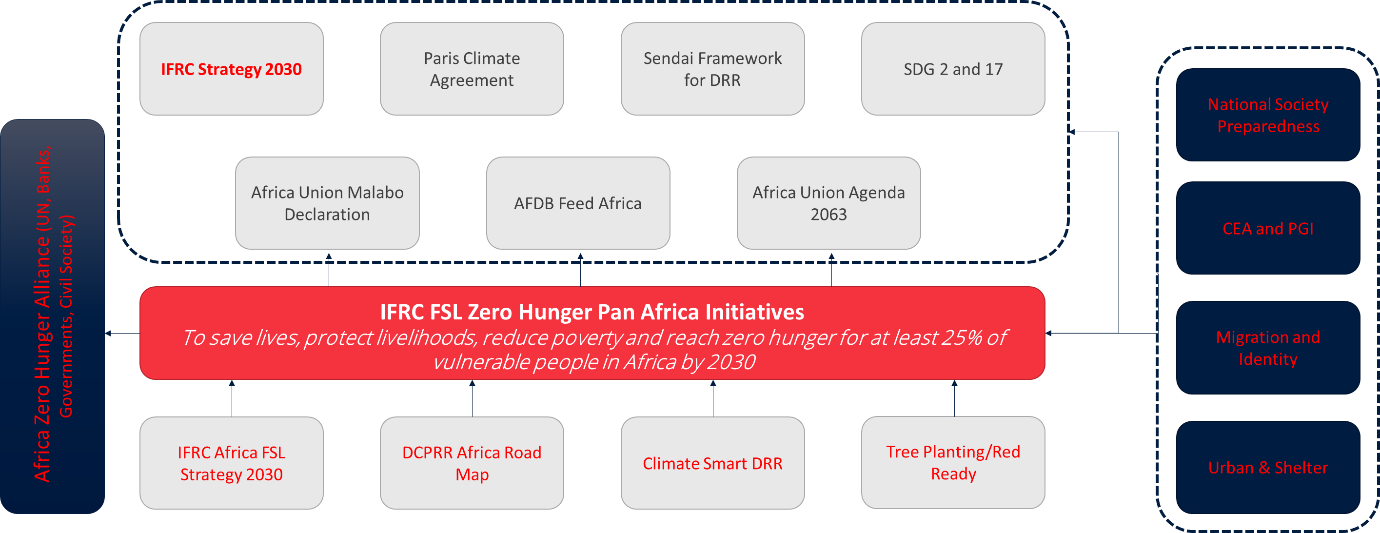
The greatest value of the RCRC movement, particularly in Africa, is that National Societies are not only close to, but they are an integral part of communities and populations, and clearly understand their realities. African National Societies, with their 1.6 million volunteers, are thus in the best position possible to assess the local underlying causes of food insecurity, the blockages hindering resilience and development, and bring this local knowledge to support tailoring the FSL programs to suit their purpose. This means that, while the regional FSL Strategic Framework will provide clear orientation on the activities, methodologies, and technical expertise, it is up to each National Society to ensure that these are customized to the local realities. Moreover, being part of the local system, National Societies, their staff, and volunteers are and will be present for the foreseeable future. This means that their engagement with their communities is long-term, allowing to set-up an adequate graduation program that focus on building resilience and promoting local development.

On the other hand, as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, National Societies have the potential to be valuable partners to support the public authorities in meeting their humanitarian obligations and achieving their humanitarian and development goals in terms of poverty reduction contributing to reduce food insecurity and strengthen livelihoods. As National Societies respond to the needs of vulnerable populations domestically and build community resilience through their staff and volunteer bases, their goals are similar to those found in national disaster or development plans. National Societies may be invaluable in the development of such plans, providing opportunities for coordination and mutual support to implement livelihood and food security interventions to affected population by a crisis or disasters in Africa.

# 6 - Linkages with Global and Pan-African Commitments

Zero-Hunger Game is the *real team game,* no single agency can achieve it alone. The RC/RC’s FSL strategic programme will be linked to Governments’ strategies and plans at local, national and regional levels. The RCRC’s Pan Africa FSL framework will be linked with the AU’s Regional Initiative on ‘*Africa’s Commitment to End Hunger by 2025’* as per African Union’s [Malabo Declaration](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/31247-doc-malabo_declaration_2014_11_26.pdf) on “Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods”. The RCRC big plan and localized actions should be linked with [AU's Agenda 2063](https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/agenda2063.pdf), Africa Development Bank’s [Feed Africa](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/Brochure_Feed_Africa_-En.pdf) plan and other Programmes and initiatives including the African Union Development Agency, African Union Development Agency [African Risk Capacity](https://www.africanriskcapacity.org/), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and SADC.

The IFRC can play catalytic role in establishing and strengthening the Africa Zero-Hunger Alliance by bringing together key players such as WFP, FAO, UNICEF, Civil Society Organizations, National Societies (African and some key partners NSs) , Climate Center, Livelihoods Centre, governmental entities , development banks ( AfDB, IsDB, WB ), private sector (including insurance company ) key donor agencies (EU, ECHO, USAID, Green Climate Fund, DFID-Foreign and Commonwealth Office and key FSL agencies in Africa.



Attention will be placed global and regional frameworks and its commitments, emphasizing the role the RCRC movement will take as a major contributor to reaching the Pan-African objectives.

IFRC Strategy 2030

Within the framework of the newly adopted [IFRC's Strategy 2030](https://future-rcrc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/S2030-EN.pdf), food security and livelihoods are critical. The second goal expressed the endeavour of the IFRC that *People lead safe, healthy and dignified lives, and have opportunities to thrive* and this espouses the significance of FSL programming. In principle, food security and livelihoods are universal to the attainment of all three pillars of the strategy. They are a part of the capacity to cope and recover from crisis in as much as they contribute to economic security and deliver inclusion, equitable societies, and peace. The IFRC strategy 2030 commits to use RCRC Movement expertise to encourage well-being at all levels, including livelihoods.

SDG 2 and 17

[IFRC’s position to SDGs](https://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/90969/The%20Red%20Cross%20Red%20Crescent%20approach%20to%20sustainable%20development,%20April%202011%20(English)%20-email.pdf) is clear and is supporting in achieving the SDG#2 (Zero Hunger). The IFRC’s commitment is to raise levels of nutrition, improve food security, better the livelihoods of most vulnerable populations and contribute to the growth National, Regional and global economy- “*Ensure access of all people at all times to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food*(that is food security) *ensuring that the number of undernourished people is reduced”.* Therefore, IFRC undertakes the twin-track approach to food security associating specific interventions for rapid food security and livelihood support for food-insecure households and communities, with a long-term strategy for zero hunger and sustainable development. The proposed approach suggests for overlapping phases from lifesaving humanitarian response to promote resilience against recurring phenomenon of food crisis. It envisions sequencing and overlapping of humanitarian response journey to the Zero Hunger goal with multi-year robust programming (10 years): 1) To promote sustainable and climate smart livelihoods and more equitable access to resources; 2)To increase access of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to sufficient, safe and nutritionally adequate food; 3)To enhance preparedness/resilience for, and effective and sustainable response to, food and agricultural production.

SDG 17

The IFRC FSL Strategic Framework and it´s Zero Hunger Initiatives will be sustained by strong alliances to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global/regional partnership for sustainable development. The Africa Zero Hunger alliance is one of agencies pursuing common objectives, and its actions must be articulated to maximize efficiencies and impact. Governments, local authorities, multilateral institutions, the United Nations and Civil Society organizations will be partners in this endeavour to reach Zero Hunger.

Paris Climate Agreement

Climate and food insecurity are intertwined. The climate agreement recognizes it and has set the objective of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Sendai Framework for DRR

Disasters have a profound and detrimental impact on food security. The FSL framework will go hand in hand with the objectives set out in the IFRC DRR Framework and apply early warning and action to foster the attainment of food security objectives, through *the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.*

Grand Bargain

Since the **Grand Bargain of 2016**, there is a global push for more multi-year funding and to reduce the gap that exists between humanitarian and development funding. This is very relevant to livelihoods and food security programming, because of the longer time required to have a sustainable impact, and because livelihoods are closely connected with community resilience, adapting to climate change and ensuring environmental sustainability. Moreover, the localisation commitments are also very important to the RCRC Movement and a great opportunity to strengthen National Societies and their branches. Any strategy must foster the development of local capacities, closer to communities.

Africa Union – Malabo Declaration

The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods is a set of new goals showing a more targeted approach to achieve the agricultural vision for the continent which is shared prosperity and improved livelihoods. The Malabo Summit reconfirmed that agriculture should remain high on the development agenda of the continent and is a critical policy initiative for African economic growth and poverty reduction.

AFDB Feed Africa Initiative

four specific goals were set by the Africa Development Bank that are geared towards Zero Hunger: (i) contribute to the end of poverty; (ii) end hunger and malnutrition; (iii) make Africa a net food exporter; and (iv) move Africa to the top of export-orientated value chains where it has comparative advantage.

The IFRC Strategic Framework targets will be embedded in these pan-African initiatives, but will also have a strong RCRC mark, integrating in its activities key priorities set out in the movement policies and regional frameworks, such as the DCPRR Road Map, Climate Smart Livelihoods, IFRC Disaster Risk Management policy and the other concomitant initiatives such as the Tree Planting and Red Ready. Moreover, transversal to these initiatives, we´ll uphold a strong focus on localisation and national society preparedness, listening from and engaging with communities, be inclusive in our programming, and look at important aspects of migration, identity, and urbanization.

The RCRC’s plan for zero hunger can be expanded through extensive network of Branches and volunteers with key niches for what the movement should focus on in food security programming. The multipurpose tree plantation campaigns and Climate Red can create momentums in Africa. The RC/RC Pan Africa Conference (PAC) can make commitments and pledges for tree plantations and climate actions. The IFRC can amplify its humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy efforts on recurrent food insecurity situations. These can be linked with World Disaster Report, Disaster Law Programme and Axillary roles of National Societies.

# 7 - Resource Mobilization Strategy

The IFRC will explore innovative financing and resource mobilization opportunities together with RCRC Movement partners to save lives, protect livelihoods and meet zero hunger goal (SDG#2) in targeted communities in Africa. The partner NSs should continue their ongoing projects or even explore new funding opportunities with their back donors. The IFRC’s efforts will be for exploring a range of flexible and predictable multiyear programming. IFRC will support partners NSs and African NSs to explore funding from different traditional and non-traditional donors and partners.

For example, IFRC will support partner NSs fund raising efforts through advocacy, compelling communication products and bring up the evidence of success. The Operations, Communications and PRD of fundraising efforts will be adopted. The IFRC will proactively engage with Multilateral Development Banks (African Development Bank, the World Bank, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), German Development Bank (KfW), Global Climate Fund, multi-national corporates, global organizations and High Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) for community resilience funding opportunities. We will explore more diversified tools like concessional financing, risk insurance. Throughout the programme, donors and partners will be informed of progress, successes and challenges, and opportunities for further involvement, such as co-funding/ funding-mix methods could be applied together with Partner National Societies and external partners. On the other hand, IFRC will support ANSs in identifying innovative ways to generate domestic/local resources. Furthermore, the ANSs will be empowered to better tap resources directly from international organizations given the new opportunity created by [the Grand Bargain and Localization of Aid](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Grand_Bargain_final_22_May_FINAL-2.pdf).

# 8 - Monitoring Evaluation and Learning

A detailed result framework will be developed with full considerations for the theory of change approach. As part of evidence-based intervention, baseline data will be collected for each intervention being implemented under this initiative. The baseline data will be collected at national and local or targeted area level and where possible aggregated at the regional level. Standardized indicators and their definitions have been established (see annex xx). Data collection and sampling methodologies will be used by adopting key established methodology and tools from the reputed FSL agencies including taking reference from the SDG#2’s results framework. The IFRC’s standard M&E framework will be used, and the monitoring and evaluation criteria will also be as per the framework. The following key practical M&E stages will be carried out.

* Develop detailed M&E plan for the different Intervention
* Develop tools/questionnaires for baseline data collection as well as program monitoring and evaluation for specific interventions based on context.
* Develop indicator tracking table to keep regular updates of the indicator performance
* Increase quality and frequency of reports as necessary.
* Strengthen Programme tracking/implementation tracking system)
* Conduct M&E capacity building activities (orientation, virtual training, face to face training and on the job coaching) of IFRC and NSs who are involved in the Programme to be able to use monitoring and data tools developed.
* Support NSs to conduct M&E capacity building activities at Branch levels
* Apply innovative IT based M&E tools (such as Kobo Collect etc), and identify new opportunities to harness technology to improve the speed and quality of data gathering.
* Conduct outfield monitoring visits as per the needs
* Gather lessons learnt, case studies and good practices from RCRC partners and external agencies and disseminate to decision makers and end-users.
* Strengthen capacity around reflection and learning practices, such as after-action reviews and scenario planning
* Expand external reviews and evaluations

# 9 - Sustainability Approach

The issue of sustainability has two main dimensions: ownership and funding. The key concern is that the activities reflect local needs. With their buy-in, the opportunity for successful Programme implementation, reporting, knowledge sharing, and additional fundraising, all increase significantly. From the outset, thorough participatory needs assessments facilitated by local RCRC volunteers and staff, and extensive community-led approach should be undertaken. Participatory FSL approaches will be applied for empowering communities to implement sustainable climate smart livelihood activities at household and community levels. The minimal resource intensive (low cost high-impact) activity could be implemented by the communities themselves – the RCRC staff and volunteers could play greater role for empowering communities to identify such activities and explore internal resources and mobilize them efficiently as innovative entrepreneurs. The BRC’s 2019 research will provide good reference. However, these will be contextualized as per the local realities. The community safety nets, sustainable livelihoods (income generating activities) and local government’s development programmes and social protection schemes will be linked. Implementation of the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach throughout all programmes will be the key to ensuring Community buy-in, their ownership and therefore sustainability of programmes. Community members are at the core of all activities and treated as partners and experts of their own situation.

The RCRC will also explore different funding sources to make sustainable funding for the SFL. Given it has direct linkage with SDG#2 (Zero Hunger Goal), the funding from developmental sectors, development banks, private sector and local developmental budget will be mobilized for ensuring the sustainable livelihoods solutions. The successful model of empowering local farmers and communities in cooperatives will also be explored and tailored to country specific context.

1. *2019, Africa, Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition, FAO* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020. Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets. Rome, FAO.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. *FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2020. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. *These include floods, cyclones, and droughts* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. *Strategy 2020. Strategic aim 1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. *Examples include in the Syria Crisis, Nepal EQ, Cyclone Idai & Kenneth.* [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. *Experience include support for basic needs/food distribution, and the support for farming and pastoralism related activities* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. *Sahel and West Africa* [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. *Emergency Appeal and DREFS: IFRC emergency tools.*

   *In the last 5 years there have been 20 Emergency Appeals addressing for food security and livelihoods as main problem.* [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. *Ref: Information gathered form 20 NS form Africa Region* [↑](#footnote-ref-11)