



USAID
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SAHEL

Joint Planning Cell

Addressing climactic shocks and recurring crises in the Sahel

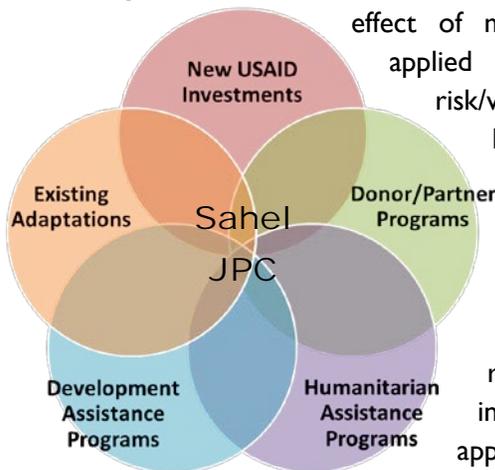
FACT SHEET

Significant chronic vulnerability in the Sahel has taken hold as a result of a combination of factors, including poverty, marginalization, weak governance, low rainfall, population pressure and high population growth, food price volatility, and climate variability.

In 2011, irregular rainfall combined with civil conflict, high food prices and shocks such as locust infestation rendered more than **18 million people food insecure**, according to FAO. In an effort to move beyond just addressing the symptoms of these factors, a new USAID Sahel Joint Planning Cell (JPC) was formed.

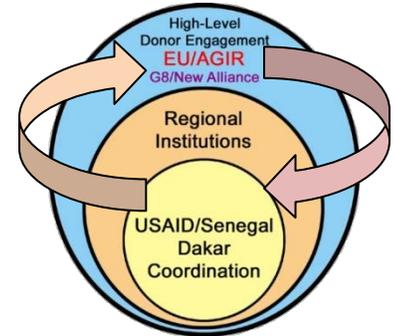
Guided by the new **USAID policy on Building Resilience to Recurring Crisis**, and the lessons learned from the Horn of Africa Joint Planning Cell, the Sahel Joint Planning Cell represents a new way of doing business for USAID across the Sahel region. The Sahel JPC seeks to coordinate existing humanitarian and development assistance, and new investments based on an in-depth analysis of chronic vulnerability, USAID's comparative advantage, and the enabling environment. The Sahel JPC is also focused on scaling up resilience adaptations already under way in the region.

Our premise is that resilience is built when the catalytic effect of multiple interventions, applied upon shared risk/vulnerability analysis, leverages the interdependence of each to produce a positive, systemic impact that is greater than would be realized by each individual activity applied in isolation.



COORDINATION

The Sahel JPC is coordinating with regional institutions, national governments, U.N. agencies, NGOs, community based organizations, research institutions, and other



partners through its participation in the Global Alliance for Resilience in the Sahel (AGIR-Sahel) partnership. Given the size and breadth of the challenge in the Sahel, this strategic coordination is critical. It will also ensure that investments in building resilience in the Sahel by USAID and others align with existing policies and strategies, including regional and national Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) compacts and National Investment Plans.

IMPACT

By sequencing, layering, and integrating new and existing investments in Niger and Burkina Faso, the Sahel JPC intends to directly impact 1.9 million beneficiaries, with a further 5.8 million indirectly impacted, through reductions in malnutrition, poverty, and food insecurity and through increases and improvements in household income, natural resource management, and disaster risk management.

The goals of the Sahel JPC are to reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition across target areas, thereby enhancing the resilience of target populations. To achieve these goals the Sahel JPC will focus both on building the resilience of target populations, as well as enhancing government capacity for coordination of risk reduction/management. Together, these will increase the ability of vulnerable populations to rebound from climatic shocks and climate change efforts at local and national levels, them the best chance to move beyond chronic vulnerability.

Resilience is the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.