FSPG GRSA
Food Security Policy Group
Groupe de réflexion sur la sécurité alimentaire

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NOURISH INITIATIVE

A new Canadian investment in gender-responsive, resilient food systems

The Food Security Policy Group (FSPG)[i] recommends that Canada invest an additional $2 billion dollars above and beyond current food security spending between 2023-2030 to respond to the food and climate crises and build long-term food systems resilience.

1. CONTEXT

The world is facing a deepening global food and nutrition crisis.

Driven by conflict, climate change and economic disruptions, this crisis has pushed food insecurity to levels not seen in years. Approximately 828 million people were affected by hunger in 2021, representing an increase of 150 million since the outbreak of COVID-19.[ii]

In 2022, climate change's impact on weather systems, including the worst drought in 40 years in East Africa, devastated food systems and caused great human suffering. The current crisis in Ukraine, and its knock-on effects on global supply chains, is compounding this suffering by adding political instability to the root causes of this growing disaster.

The escalating food crisis has also exacerbated deep inequalities in our global food system. There is a gender gap, with 150 million more women and girls experiencing significantly higher levels of hunger than men and boys (compared with 2018), and a geographic gap, with much higher prevalence of hunger concentrated in the African region.

In the face of this emergency, most affected countries are calling for increased commitments as well as better collaboration and partnerships at national and international levels to respond in ways that will build resilient and sustainable food systems.[iii]

The Nourish Initiative will enable Canada to respond to this call and address the immediate impacts of the food crisis on small-scale food producers, agricultural businesses and communities while also building longer term resilience to both climate, economic and geo-political shocks.

By supporting a new investment in gender-responsive, resilient food systems, Canada will further build its reputation as a global leader in food security and gender equality, help meet its development goals and climate finance commitments, and enable those most at risk to multiple shocks, especially women and girls, to transform the systems that shape their lives and the futures of their communities. Addressing gender inequality and food insecurity together is critical as global indices demonstrate a definitive correlation – as gender inequality rises, food insecurity rises too.[iv]

Canada has a proud history as a strong supporter of sustainable food systems. In response to the 2008 food price crisis, Canada doubled its aid for agriculture, and made significant increases in support for global nutrition and food assistance. At the G7 meeting in June 2022, G7 members committed significant new resources to combat the global hunger crisis.[v] Within that, Canada announced new humanitarian funding, but nothing for agriculture and food systems.[vi] In fact, up to June 2022, of known allocations, just 4% ($65.9 million) of Canada's $5.3 billion climate finance commitment has been allocated towards Climate Smart Agriculture and Food Systems (compared to 69% towards Clean Energy Transition).[vii]

In 2020, Ceres2030, a partnership between Cornell University, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), published ground-breaking research on the cost of effective approaches to ending global hunger by 2030. Guided by SDG2 goals and premises, Ceres2030 calculated that donors need to contribute an additional USD$14 billion/year until 2030 to double the incomes of small-scale producers, while supporting the transition to environmental sustainability.

Canada's share of this global target is approximately 4% (or CDN$768 M per year). Based on Canada's contribution of $484 M to agricultural development in 2020-21, this would require an additional $284 million/year until 2030: an additional CDN$2 billion over 7 years.

Now is the time to support the Nourish Initiative for a sustainable long-term response to the global food and climate crisis!

The Ask:

The Food Security Policy Group recommends that Canada invest an additional $2 billion dollars over 2023-2030 to respond to the food and climate crises and build long-term resilience. Of this, FSPG recommends that $1 billion of additional funds be channeled through Canadian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), $800 million through multilateral organizations that are focused on the food and climate crises, and $200 million to directly support women's organizations' responses to these crises. In support of Canada's commitments under the Feminist International Assistance Policy, at least 15% ($300 million) of the above should be dedicated to specifically targeting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in agricultural food systems.

2. IMPACT

Direct impact: An investment of $2 billion will directly lift an additional 2.3 million people out of hunger, double the incomes of 2.6 million small-scale producers and improve environmental outcomes from agriculture and food systems in line with meeting the 2015 Paris climate agreement (using the Ceres2030 research as a guide).[viii]

Impact on families and communities: Directly doubling incomes for 2.6 million small-scale producers would have significant knock-on effects for their families: benefiting approximately 13 million additional people in the world's most vulnerable communities.[ix] Furthermore, smallholder agriculture tends to be more labour-intensive than other sectors; doubling incomes for small-scale producers will also lead to higher on-farm employment, resulting in positive economic impacts for entire rural communities. Studies show that small-scale farmers tend to spend more of their incomes on locally produced goods and services—thus increases in their income will also stimulate local economies.[x] Indeed, agricultural development is two to four times more effective at raising incomes of a country's poorest citizens compared to other sectors.[xi]

Impacts at regional/country level: Following the Nourish Initiative's proposed principles (listed below), such as strong collaborative, decolonial, and systems-wide changes, this investment should help leverage developing country resources and private sector resources, including those of farmers themselves, for even greater long-term impact. This would contribute to more than 130 million people experiencing improvements in their lives.[xii]

Deep transformative change on gender equality, climate change resilience, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and supporting strong, local food systems will impact whole families and communities, contribute to regional peace and security, and ensure sustainability for the future. A world of food scarcity is a world prone to conflict and instability, including localized conflicts over scarce resources. Tackling the root causes of global instability, including addressing food system failures, is integral to combating its spread. Working with a Nexus approach will reduce the need for humanitarian assistance in years to come as well as help build a more peaceful, prosperous and secure world for all.

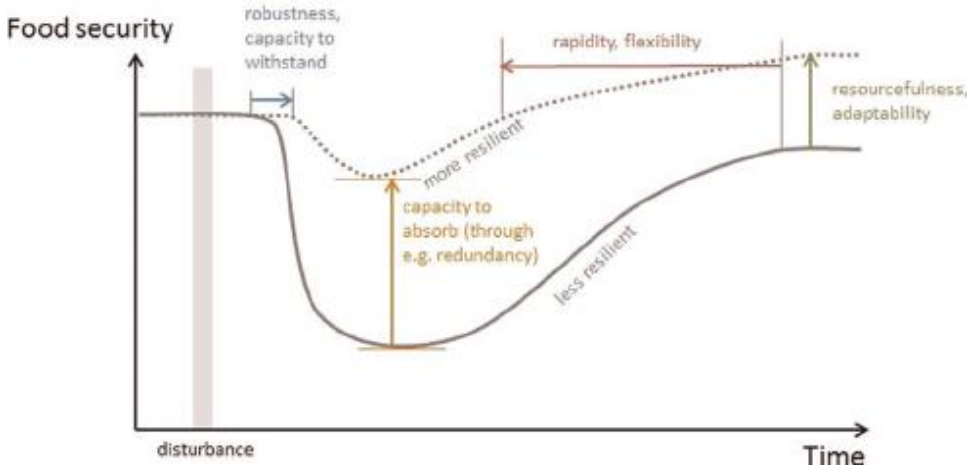
As Alvaro Lario, president of the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), recently said: "Smallholders are at the core of our food systems, and food systems are at the core of global stability. Unless we invest (in them) right now, we will continue to drift from crisis to crisis."[xiii]

3. GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

The Nourish Initiative should focus on strengthening **small-scale food producers** and **local food systems** in countries that meet the following criteria:

- Countries with food systems that are highly vulnerable to shocks, be they economic, environmental or sociopolitical;
- Highly populated countries, albeit not exclusively, to maximize the impact of Canadian aid dollars; by enabling systems change, including sustainably increasing food security levels, for a high number of at-risk individuals;
- Countries with low domestic capacity for investment in gender-inclusive resilient food systems.

When programmatic efforts are geared toward increasing food system capacity to absorb shocks, food security levels improve in the immediate *and* the long term in the face of shocks (as shown by the graphic below)[xiv].



To determine the countries that meet these criteria, food systems vulnerability levels could be determined through a variety of parameters taken from existing indices that consider factors ranging from existing food insecurity levels, production capacity, import dependency ratios, demographics and population growth, climate change vulnerabilities, political stability, gender inequality, etc. (Ex. IPC levels/Prevalence of Undernourishment, FAOSTAT indicators, World Bank % Population Growth, Global Climate Risk Index, Fragile State Index, Gender Inequality Index, etc.)

Therefore, the Nourish Initiative should be open to programming opportunities in all regions of the Global South, but with the majority of funds likely to be targeted toward Africa. Investments should be directed to the continents with the greatest needs, while also recognizing that food system fragility is not confined to Africa.

4. PRINCIPLES

The following principles should be operationalized for the Nourish Initiative to ensure greatest impact.

- **Nexus Approach:** A Nexus approach would respond to short- and medium-term impacts of the hunger and climate crises while investing in long-term food system resilience. This approach would enable humanitarian responses to immediate needs while more effectively linking to longer term agriculture and food systems approaches (and ideally allowing flexibility in program funding to address humanitarian emergencies that might arise in the longer term).

  As other humanitarian funds are already being directed to the current global food crisis, the Nourish Initiative funding package should not be split between humanitarian and development responses. Rather FSPG recommends flexibility to include the possibility of integrating a humanitarian response into long-term development projects. Furthermore, a priority should be made to improve communication and planning between humanitarian and development departments and their capacity to mobilize and bring together relevant CSOs actors for greater synergies and impacts.

- **Agility:** Built-in agility to programming would allow for ongoing monitoring as the crisis unfolds, and flexibility to adjust to changing needs**.** Agility is a hallmark of effective food systems approaches. The food system is a complex, interconnected web, and approaches to building greater resilience require regular reexamination of contexts, rechecking assumptions and making necessary adjustments.

  One way to see immediate impact, would be to provide top ups to existing food security projects. This would ensure food producers can get crops in the ground for the coming year and enable access to necessary inputs and other supports needed in the short term to contribute to reducing the pressure of the food crisis.

- **Decolonial Approaches:** Country-led approaches to align with national goals, plans and strategies need to be balanced with meaningful consultation and leadership provided by locally led grassroot organizations, including women's groups. A strong commitment to learning should be included, centering perspectives of local communities and actors in leading and participating in learning processes.

- **Collaboration:** To effectively address change at a systems level strong collaborative approaches are critical. FSPG recommends a multi-stakeholder approach including farmers' and women's organizations, partner agencies in local communities, academic and research agencies, other NGOs, government agencies and the private sector. This could mean programming partnerships and/or national or regional learning and coordination hubs.

- **Scale:** A plan to scale up reach and impact should be built into the Nourish Initiative. This should go beyond scaling out (increasing the number of small-scale food producers and communities who experience greater resilience) to include scaling up (engaging with policy makers and other stakeholders in systems change) and scaling deep (individual transformation in world views and values, such as gender equality, that drive deep level change).

  This approach to scale works hand-in-hand with collaborative and decolonial approaches for broader impact and transformational change.

- **Sustainability:** Ensuring sustainability of impact should undergird this initiative. That starts with a longer programming window (2023-2030) needed towards transforming the gendered social norms and systemic inequalities that govern food systems. It includes intersectional approaches that enable greater agency by marginalized groups, local decision making and ownership, and support to strengthen local farmers' and women's groups to lead and drive change long after funding programs end. It also requires scaling up to engage with policy makers, government agencies and other stakeholders for systems change.

- **Public Engagement:** To increase resources devoted to the vital work of telling the story of the impact and value of Canadian aid, FSPG recommends a small percentage of funds be allocated towards public engagement work in Canada. This will build understanding of the causes of global hunger, the need for more resilient local and global food system(s), and support for Canada's important development assistance abroad.

5. FUNDING SOURCES AND TIMELINES

To meet the funding targets between 2023-2030, investments will need to come from a mix of funding envelopes. This will include funds from Canada's 2021-2026 climate finance program as well as additional funds from future ODA to carry funding through to 2030.

For the greatest impact towards meeting the 2030 SDGs, the Nourish Initiative of $2 billion in new and additional funding should be announced as part of Budget 2023. The majority of funds should be disbursed as early as possible to enable food producers to respond to the immediate food crisis and allow the necessary time for planning, implementation and deliverable/results by 2030. For transformative change, the majority of programming should take place over 5-7 years.

We recommend that funds be disbursed:
2023: 500 million
2024: 400 million
2025: 300 million
2026: 200 million
2027: 200 million
2028: 200 million
2029: 200 million

6. FUNDING CHANNELS

FSPG recommends a mix of funding flowing through the partnership branch, bilateral and multilateral channels of GAC.

In addition, all possible flexible funding and contracting mechanisms should be included to enable agility and responsiveness to crisis-related impacts as they arise. FSPG further recommends that $200 million would directly support local women's organizations, with Canadian CSOs serving as flow-through agents to women's organizations in the Global South that are directly leading efforts to build gender-equitable food systems.

7. THE ROLE FOR CSOS

Both multilateral organizations and CSOs have important roles to play in supporting gender-responsive climate-resilient food systems. Multilateral organizations have the capacity—and should be pushed—to drive systemic change, work at scale, and influence the priorities of national governments.

Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) have the experience and capacity to implement food systems program work, including gender and climate change in multiple geographic regions, and particularly in Africa. Currently FSPG members have projects in at least 36 African countries. Their deep understanding of the policy environments, value chains, distribution networks, regional integration and the nexus between development and trade all contribute to their ability to deliver results at a national and regional scale.

Canadian CSOs have a strong track record on meeting FIAP's gender equality goals alongside other priorities. Though Canada only channeled 5% of its 2016-2020 climate finance through CSOs, these projects made up over 60% (by disbursement) of the projects with gender goals as the principal purpose.[xv]

Canadian CSOs are well-placed to operationalize the recommended guiding principles for the Nourish Initiative. CSOs have long-standing partnerships with local implementing organizations that are rooted in local contexts and approaches, including local women's organizations, to reach the most vulnerable and

marginalized communities quickly and be nimble in the face of changing circumstances. Many Canadian CSOs were able to pivot quickly to adapt programming in the face of COVID-19 and add new funding to existing programming on the fly. Research by AidWatch Canada demonstrates that climate change funds channeled through Canadian CSOs reaches end users faster than climate change finance contributed by Canada to multilateral development banks.[xvi]

FSPG members have named decolonization as a key priority for collective learning and programmatic change—and are committed to localization processes and gender transformation. At least 80% of FSPG members have implemented initiatives of localization/decolonization. These processes can also help anchor sustainability and long-term change in local food systems.

Canadian CSOs have a broad reach of influence, including with national governments, universities and other research institutions, and the private sector. And while no single Canadian CSO can reach the numbers of people that most multilateral organizations can, collectively and collaboratively we can multiply our scale and impact—as well as scale up to policy level and scale deep for transformative change.

This collaborative capacity is evident in a recent survey of FSPG members' program work in Africa. Of 21 respondents:

- 16 CSOs collaborate/partner with other Canadian CSOs
- 21 collaborate/partner with African based CSOs, and across a wide range of activities
- 17 collaborate with government, 15 with universities, 15 with research organizations, 12 with SMEs, and 7 with large/international private business.
- 12 were involved in policy dialogue with African governments
- 18 share program learnings from one country to another

Canadian CSOs demonstrate our shared values of democracy, inclusion, gender equality and global solidarity in many countries and contexts, and build understanding and support for international cooperation though public engagement across Canada.

8. HIGH LEVEL OUTCOMES

The Nourish Initiative should focus on food systems approaches[xvii] that work for people and the planet, and that address both the short-term crisis and long-term resilience. A gender-responsive resilient food system will enable people within the food system to prepare for, withstand and transform away from instability and shocks, such as the current food crisis and longer term climate crisis—and do so in ways that advance women's rights and equality.

Three high level outcomes:

1. Food and nutrition security
2. Climate change resilience
3. Gender equality

Each project/program under the Nourish Initiative should meet all three high level outcomes as part of a food systems approach. This systems approach--supported by the guiding principles listed above—will help to build gender-responsive resilient food systems.

By focusing efforts in specific areas, Canadian CSOs and their local/national partners can have a big impact on key factors and actors within the food system. The table below outlines some of the actions that could be implemented by Canadian CSOs and their partners over the 7-year project time frame, without being exhaustive.

Food System Areas	Possible CSO Programming Activities
Central programmatic themes to support gender-responsive climate-resilient food systems	
Food and Nutrition Security	• Design for food and nutrition security • Align with the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) to ensure gender equality embedded in food and nutrition security outcomes • Increase sustainable access to nutritious food for small-scale food producers through greater availability of home-grown food and increased incomes. • Improve dietary diversity and nutritional content for individuals, households and communities • Multiply food and nutrition impact in local communities and beyond through more resilient local food systems. Provide knock-on livelihood opportunities in rural areas and villages • Support Nexus programing, including emergency food provision, in times of crisis
Gender Equality	• Design for gender transformation, including through feminist analysis to understand underlying power dynamics and obstacles to women's equality (aligned with FIAP) • Strengthen women's participation and leadership in food production and food systems as a key pathway to gender transformation • Integrate processes of social norm transformation aimed at making relational and structural gender dynamics more equitable, which may include integrated household approaches to gender equality as well as community gender champions. This will lead to deeper level change and manage risks of gender-based violence • Promote decision-making and economic power of women, girls and other vulnerable groups • Prioritize processes/interventions to reduce women's labour • Involve and support women's rights organizations to lead response in crises and in nexus contexts, and empower women and girls
Climate Change Resilience	• Design for climate change resilience (which will support broader resilience goals) • Spread risk through diversified crops, livestock & livelihoods • Support other larger-scale land-use systems such as Nature-based Solutions and integrated watershed management • Protect and enhance biodiversity, including promoting diverse landscapes, improving soil biodiversity, riparian buffers, protecting areas

	of ecological and/or cultural importance, reforestation, farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR). • Build in emergency preparedness, early warning systems • Involve women and other marginalized communities in leadership and planning for climate change resilience, including in anticipatory conflict management and peace-building in conflict-prone environments
Pre-production, resources, knowledge & skills	
Information dissemination	• Communicate food and nutrition security messaging (agricultural extension, nutrition, gender equality, gender-based violence, marketing etc) via diverse media including mobile devices, radio and social media • Utilize popular education and gender transformative communication materials and media (both mobile and low-tech) to stimulate dialogues on gender responsive and adaptive agricultural production and market systems
Monitoring and evaluation	• Assess and monitor changes in food and nutrition security, gender equality and climate change resilience
Training & Knowledge	• Provide training, especially for women in production, financial literacy, business management, marketing, climate risks and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation • Support agricultural extension services • Enable improved networking and collaboration with other organizations, private sector and government; farmer-to-farmer visits, individual experiments, collaborative learnings, trainings and education.
Resources	• Transform systems and structures for equitable access to resources, especially for women and girls, including land, livestock, inputs and finance
Youth	• Involve and support youth organizations in contributing to gender-responsive, resilient food systems • Develop and support mentoring programs for young farmers • Transform systems and structures to reduce age discrimination that limits access and control of resources and decision-making power by and of youth in food systems
Food Production	
Inputs	• Enhance availability, facilitate access and ensure distribution of critical agricultural resources including agricultural inputs. • Expand production of local organic inputs (compost, biofertilizers, manure). • Stimulate the increase in local agroecological seed production • Promote improved water management, including water harvesting and small irrigation systems.

Agroecological approaches	• Stimulate rapid production of highly nutritious short-cycle crops, small livestock, poultry and kitchen gardens to supplement limited supplies at markets and diversify household income. • Support agroecological approaches to soil health and land management, such as erosion control, increased soil carbon, regenerative agriculture, reforestation, green manure/cover crops, that both reduce threats to biodiversity and enable sustainable use of natural resources • Support diversity in crops, livestock and livelihood strategies • Support agroecological high nutritional value food production in urban and peri-urban areas.
Learning & innovation	• Support on-farm innovation, experimentation, and learning
Processing, storage, markets	
Processing, storage and distribution	• Strengthen post-harvest management and community food/grain storage including cold storage for nutritious produce and local processing of grains at the local and regional level. • Expand resilience-enhancing food system infrastructures including community grain banks and local seed multiplication / distribution centres. • Stimulate and support local processing and marketing.
Retail and marketing	• Shorten food supply chains. • Support local and regional markets (including transborder markets). • Support local/regional market actors to link with secondary or non-affected food markets. • Support the infrastructure, regulations, services and technical assistance needed to support small and medium enterprises in the value chain. • Support product and market diversification mechanisms to reduce the impact of conflict, economic or climatic shock on agripreneurs
Food Preparation & Consumption	
Sustainable livelihoods	• Increase agricultural incomes to allow farm families and others who benefit in rural communities to invest in good nutrition
Urbanization	• Enable food producers to better fulfill the food needs of rural and urban communities including via collective and direct marketing and link with emergency food assistance providers.
Nutrition-sensitive approaches	• Improve access to more diverse and healthier foods, including through kitchen gardens, animal-source foods, agroforestry. • Support education, for and by women, on nutrition.

Enabling Environment	
Leadership and governance	• Coordinate with government authorities to develop joint and coordinated responses that mitigate the impact of shocks to local food systems • Coordinate with humanitarian operations on the ground to enable greatest impact • Advocate for policy change to improve gender equality, climate resilience and effective food systems
Strong rural organizations	• Leverage and support farmers' organizations, cooperatives and women's rights organizations to lead delivery of services to their members, and represent farmers' concerns at community, regional and national levels • Build capacity of farmers organizations, cooperatives and women's rights organizations to lead communities in gender-sensitive integrated risk management approaches, applying disaster risk reduction strategies in a way that looks at both current (known) risks and future risks, especially climate change. • Enhance coordination and build linkages between food systems actors including cooperatives, women's rights organizations, farmers unions and local civil society
Finance/Business development	• Support community-based savings groups through recovery and resilience-building lending mechanisms. • Support financial institutions to deliver gender-responsive financial services (loans, savings, insurance, loan guarantees, etc.) to small-scale food producers to enhance engagement in agricultural production, transformation, distribution and food safety. • Promote spread of innovative and digital financial and technical services to reduce barriers to access among women, youth and rural communities. • Support business continuity and recovery for SMEs including access to grants and loans for women and youth to access agricultural inputs and other activities linked with the production, transformation and marketing of food products. • Build business growth via market diversification, supply chain finance and environmentally sustainable production/processing practices and technology. • Promote social protection services, such as crop insurance

9. CASE STUDIES

In 2020, the Food Security Policy Group (FSPG) published six case studies of agricultural projects in West Africa, implemented by Canadian civil society organizations and local partners, and funded by Global Affairs. The research was undertaken by local research teams in the respective countries.[xviii]

The six case studies exemplify how well-planned, inclusive agricultural development projects can not only improve food security and livelihoods, but also empower women and girls, and improve climate change resilience in targeted communities. The case studies also demonstrated scaling out (to non-targeted communities), scaling up (governance) and scaling deep (personal and collective values change).

RADCHA - Radio pour le développement des chaines de valeur agricole
Country: Mali, part of a larger project including Ghana, Malawi, and Tanzania
Canadian CSO: Farm Radio International
Partners: Farm Radio International Mali
Years: 2015-2017
Description: This project worked with three radio stations in Mali and 91,000 farmers (about 39% women) who listened to FRI-sponsored programs. RADCHA spanned four countries, with the case study focusing on Mali. With support from Farm Radio International, the radio stations broadcast two years of radio programs that covered various aspects of chicken production to address the needs of small-scale poultry farmers, with the goal of increasing production and profits. The programs focused on improving disease control in poultry, construction of chicken housing and improved poultry marketing, and promoting gender equality among poultry farmers.

FARM – Financement Agricole et rural au Mali
Country: Mali
Canadian CSO: Développement international Desjardins and SOCODEVI
Partners: Banque nationale de développement Agricole (BNDA); Office du périmètre irrigué Baguinéda (OPIB);
Organisation paysannes locales de Baguinéda (10 OP)
Years: 2017-2021
Description: This project worked with 1978 smallholder farmers (76% women) growing irrigated onions in Mali, aiming to increase their productivity and incomes. Women were encouraged and supported to use financial services including savings, loans and crop insurance. They also had the opportunity to learn more about farm management and environmental practices, to establish links with value chain actors, and to work together in producer associations.

RESULT – Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods Transformation
Country: Ghana
Canadian CSO: Canadian Feed The Children
Partners: Association of Church Based Development Projects
Years: 2012-2018
Description: This project worked with 21,100 farmers (70% women) and their families in Ghana to overcome food insecurity and vulnerability. Interventions were targeted at poorer, female-headed households, and included activities to improve women's access to land, productive resources and technology, and strengthen women's decision-making power in the household as well as their income-generating activities and access to finance. The project trained community workers for agriculture and livestock, trained farmers in climate-smart agricultural techniques, and promoted diverse income generating activities for rural entrepreneurs.

IMSA – Innovation and Mobilization Initiative for Food Security
Country: Burkina Faso, part of larger project including Bolivia and Peru
Canadian CSO: Mission inclusion
Partners: Action pour la Promotion des Initiatives Locales (APIL); Union des Sociétés Coopératives pour la Commercialisation des Produits Agricoles de la Boucle du Mouhoun; Association pour la Formation le Développement
Years: 2015-2020
Description: This project worked with 3000 farmers (51% women) growing cowpea, sorghum, millet, onion and tomatoes in Burkina Faso. It was designed to increase productivity and improve marketing, as well as environmental sustainability. It strengthened value chains for both women and men and worked with producer organizations to improve governance and make them more responsive to producers' needs.

SATISFY – Systems Approach to Improve and Sustain Food Security
Country: Sierra Leone
Canadian CSO: World Vision Canada
Partners: World Vision International-Sierra Leone; Agriteam Canada; Radio Wanje; Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI); Farmer Field Schools (FFS) Federation
Years: 2012-2017
Description: This project, which was implemented in three other countries (Ghana, Mali and Senegal), worked with 17,071 smallholder farmers (62% women) in Sierra Leone, who were supported to grow various crops and livestock using improved breeds and climate-smart technologies (e.g. System of Rice Intensification) to promote sustainable livelihoods and use of healthy foods by women, men and their families. It also worked with staff in several government ministries to increase institutional capacity to deliver effective gender-responsive agricultural services.

GROW – Greater Rural Opportunities for Women
Country: Ghana
Canadian CSO: Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)
Partners: Tumu Deanery Rural Integrated Development Programme (TUDRIDEP); Professional Network North (ProNet); Community Aid for Rural Development (CARD); Capacity Enhancement and Community Support (CAPECS); Partnership for Rural Development Action (PRUDA)
Years: 2012-2018
Description: This project worked with 23,368 female farmers, training them to grow and market soybeans in the Upper West Region of Ghana, to improve their food security and household income. Project activities were aimed at improving women's linkages to markets to sell soy and other agricultural products, access to productive land and technology, increasing soybean yields, processing of soybeans to produce a diverse selection of nutritious products for consumption and sale, and improving financial inclusion through savings groups and linkages to microfinance institutions. The project also introduced climate-smart agricultural techniques to build resilience.

i The Canadian Food Security Policy Group is a network of Canadian development and humanitarian organizations with expertise in global food systems, and food security in the Global South. Since 1996, we have been carrying out joint advocacy, research and policy dialogue to ensure that Canada's international agricultural and development policies advance global food security in an inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and coherent way. https://cooperation.ca/canadian-food-security-policy-group/

ii FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2022. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022.

iii African Union. 2022. https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20221015/galvanizing-support-build-resilient-and-sustianable-food-systems-food

iv CARE International. 2022. www.care-international.org/resources/food-security-and-gender-equality

v G7 Statement on Global Food Security. 28 June 2022

vi https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/06/23/prime-minister-trudeau-announces-canadian-support-address-global-food

vii AidWatch Canada, draft report for C4D. July 2022.

viii The calculations of direct impact are extrapolated from the Ceres2030 research project which found that a total of US$14 billion/year in additional funding from donors between 2020-2030 (additional to US$12 billion/year already spent on agriculture, food security and nutrition) alongside US$19 billion/year required from low and middle-income countries are required to lift 490 million people out of hunger, double the incomes of 545 million small-scale producers and limit greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture to the commitments made in the Paris Agreement. The impact from CDN$2 billion extrapolates 1.3 million direct beneficiaries as a percentage of this overall impact. https://ceres2030.iisd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ceres2030-en-what-would-it-cost.pdf.

ix The indirect impact is based on five family members per small-scale food producer.

x Wiggins, S., Kirsten, J. & Llambi, L. (2010) "The Future of Small Farms" in World Development 38(10): 1341-1348 ; Hazell, P. (2011) "Five Big Questions About Five Hundred Million Small Farms." A paper presented at the IFAD Conference on New Directions for Smallholder Agriculture, Rome

xi World Bank. 2022. https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/overview

xii Using a three tier system of beneficiaries (as per World Food Programme, https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000117999/download/), tier 3 represents a wider population impacted by technical assistance, advocacy, and transformation of systems and national programmes. We used a 10x multiplier on indirect beneficiaries to estimate this effect.

xiii iPolitics, 2022. www.ipolitics.ca/news/give-small-scale-farmers-international-aid-money-to-curb-food-crisis-un-ag-fund-president

xiv Tendall, D.M., et al. (2015) Food System Resilience: Defining the Concept. Global Food Security, 6, 17-23. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gfs.2015.08.001

xv AidWatch Canada. 2021. http://aidwatchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-Final-Canada-Climate-Paper.pdf

xvi AidWatch Canada. 2021. http://aidwatchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-Final-Canada-Climate-Paper.pdf

xvii In 2014, the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition proposed the following definition for foods systems: "A food system is a system that embraces all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, markets, and trade) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution and marketing, preparation, and consumption of food and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes"

xviii FSPG, 2020. https://cooperation.ca/leaders-in-the-field/