

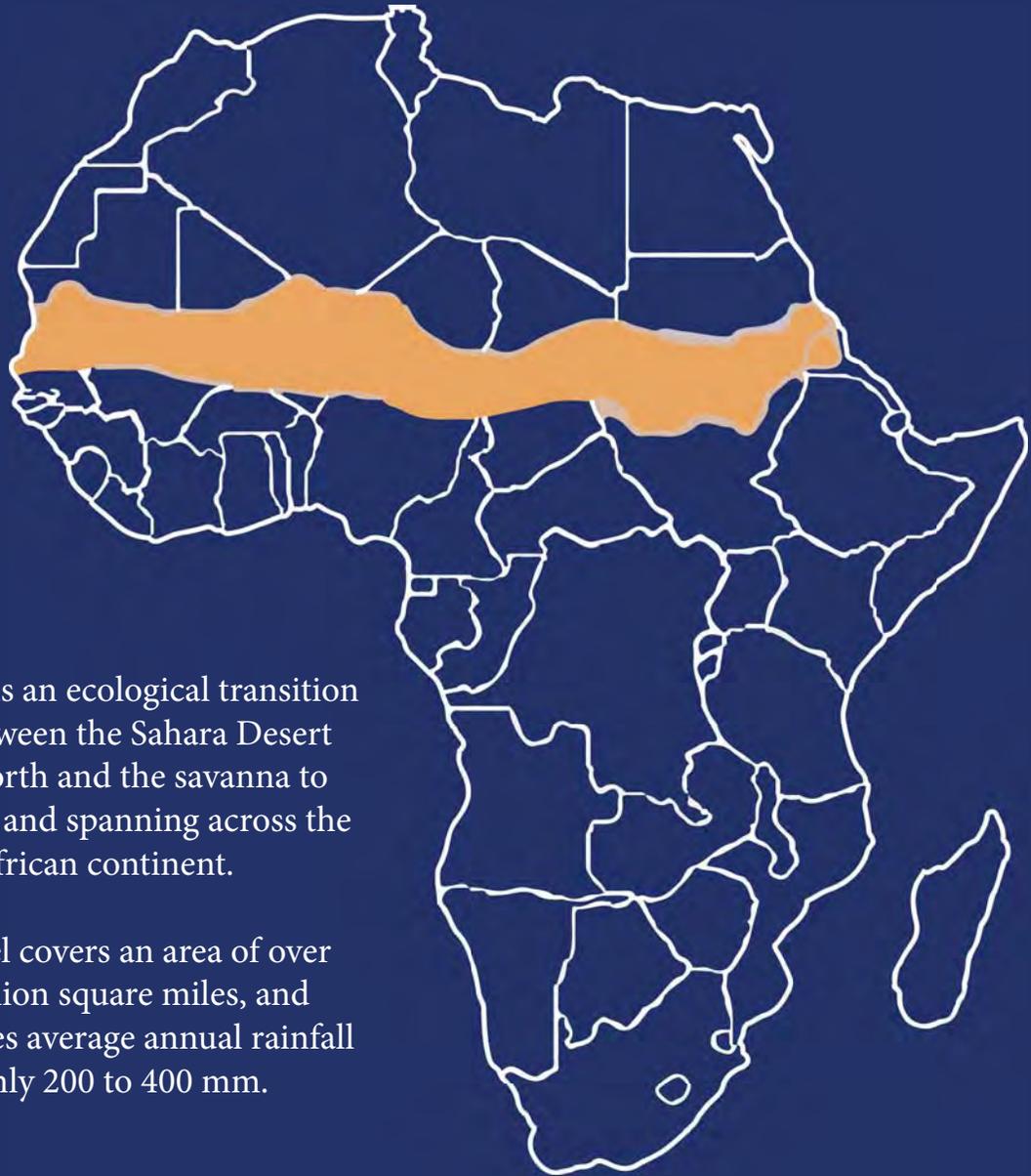


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# Sahel Joint Planning Cell Strategic Plan

Reducing Risk, Building Resilience, and Facilitating  
Inclusive Economic Growth



The Sahel is an ecological transition zone between the Sahara Desert to the north and the savanna to the south, and spanning across the African continent.

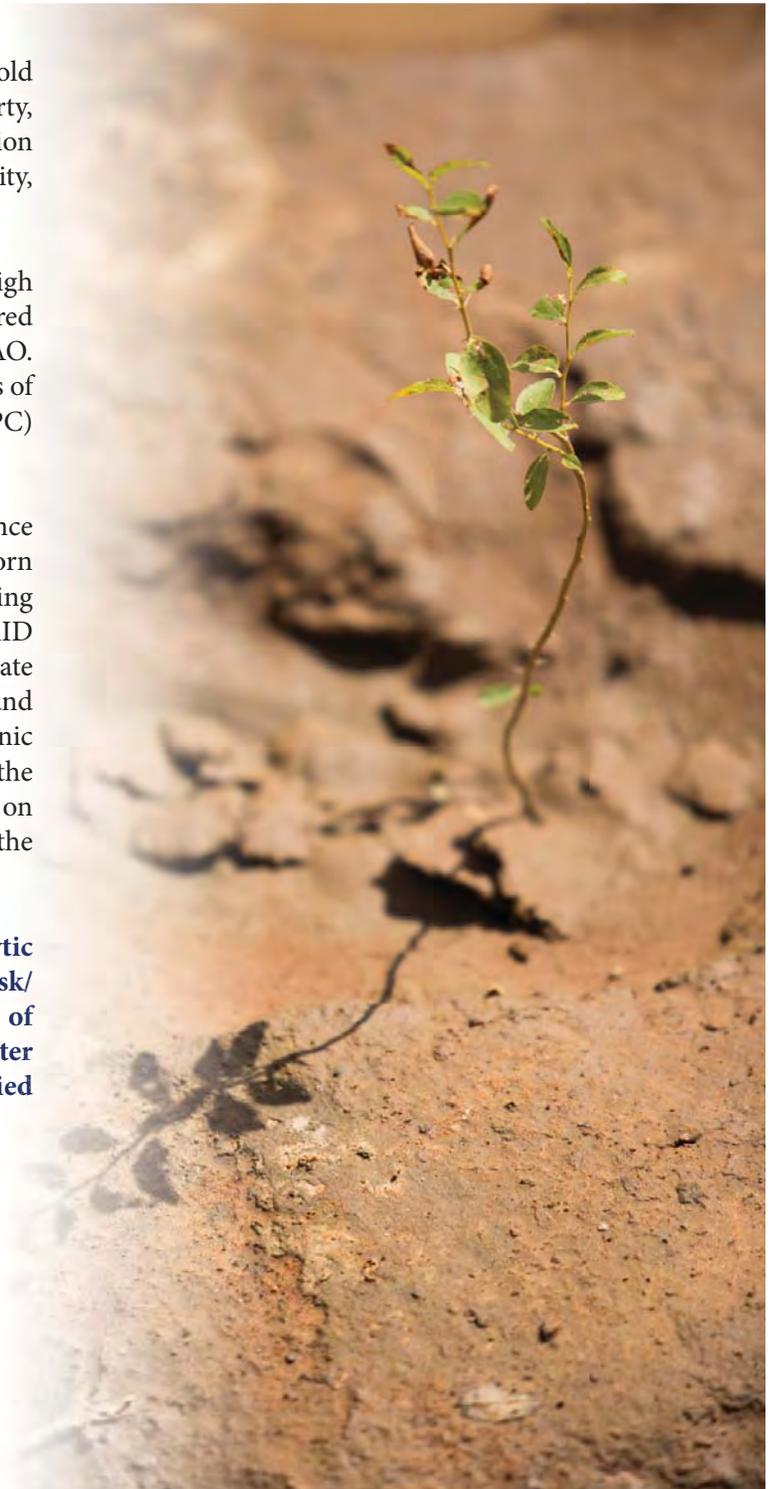
The Sahel covers an area of over 1.1 million square miles, and experiences average annual rainfall of only 200 to 400 mm.

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

Given the size and breadth of the challenge in the Sahel, strategic coordination between local and international actors is crucial to the enhanced resilience of communities across the region.

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.

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.

## GOALS

The goals of the Sahel JPC include reducing 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 the most vulnerable populations, as well as enhancing government capacity for coordination of risk reduction/management. Together, these will improve the ability of vulnerable populations to rebound from climatic shocks and climate change efforts at local and national levels, giving them the best chance to move beyond chronic vulnerability.

The intended results of these new investments and the existing humanitarian and development programs in targeted livelihood zones on which they will build include:

- 375,000 fewer people require humanitarian assistance during a drought of 2011 magnitude
- Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates reduced from near 15% to below 10%
- Depth of poverty among poor households reduced by 20%
- Prevalence of severely/moderately hungry households reduced by 20%
- Income from sheep/goats, poultry and cowpeas increased by 50% in targeted households



“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.”

Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis  
- USAID policy and program guidance  
December 2012



## SAHEL JPC STRATEGY AND NEW INVESTMENTS

### - NIGER AND BURKINA FASO

USAID will leverage existing humanitarian and development assistance to reduce risk, build resilience and facilitate inclusive economic growth among **chronically vulnerable** households across the Sahel. New investments co-funded by various USAID bureaus will focus on the agro-pastoralist and marginal agricultural zones in Niger and Burkina Faso.

Three sets of criteria were used to select these focus geographies. The first were vulnerability analyses, including global acute malnutrition rates, levels of food insecurity, climatic stresses, and USAID Bureau of Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance dollars spent on humanitarian assistance between 2005 and the present. The second was USAID's comparative advantage as defined by the presence of existing humanitarian and development assistance programs on which new investments can build. The final set of criteria relate to the enabling environment, including security conditions, a conducive and forward leaning government partner, and the presence of resilient adaptations and innovations already under way that can be scaled-up, deepened and expanded upon. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and water harvesting that have resulted in the re-greening of over 5 million hectares in Niger are a prominent example.

New investments, including a multi-sector resilience program and a focused value chain program, will build on and out from existing Food For Peace development programs in these target livelihood zones to reach an estimated 1.9 million beneficiaries. They will also sequence and layer their efforts with other USAID/West Africa regional programs and other USAID development and humanitarian programs in these zones.

The multi-sector resilience program consists of three components. The first aims to increase sustainable economic well-being defined by income, food access, assets (broadly conceived) and adaptive capacity. Sub-components within this component aim to diversify economic opportunity, intensify production and marketing for livestock and high potential crops, and increase access to financial services. The focused value chain program will complement these efforts by enhancing the competitiveness (and inclusiveness) of cow pea, small ruminant and poultry value chains. A separate Development Credit Authority mechanism will also be used to encourage private sector investment in the financial services sector.

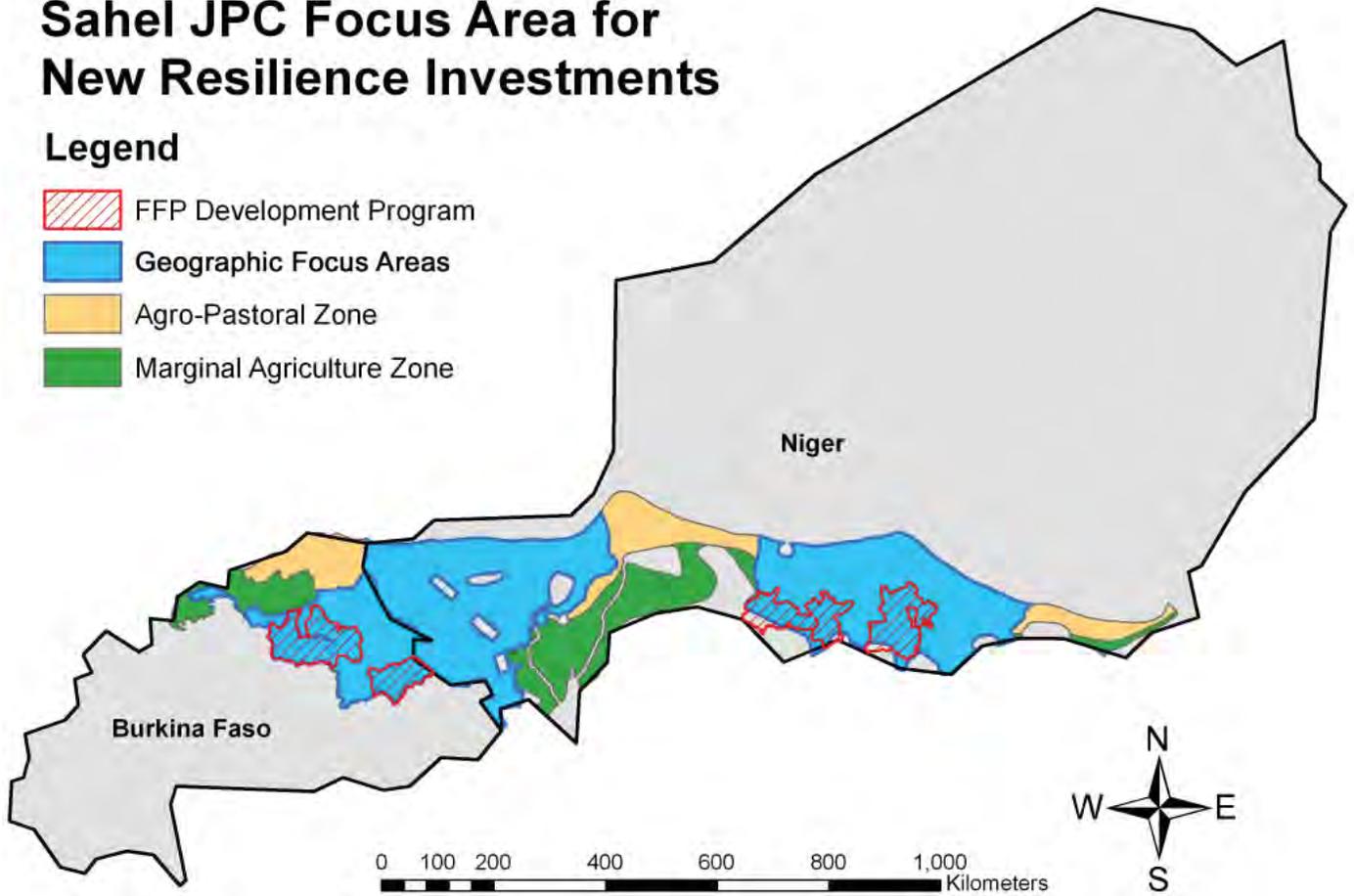
The second component of the multi-sector resilience programs aims to strengthen institutions and governance, including those related to natural resource, conflict and disaster risk management. It also aims to strengthen the capacity of government (at all levels) to coordinate resilience building efforts.

The third component aims to improve health and nutrition and will focus on increasing access to potable water through a multiple use water systems approach linked to component one and a comprehensive and integrated health and nutrition behavior change and communication (BCC) strategy. To this end the Sahel JPC is exploring the possibility within USAID and with other partners to implement Integrated Community Case Management in targeted communities to increase resilience outcomes.

# Sahel JPC Focus Area for New Resilience Investments

## Legend

-  FFP Development Program
-  Geographic Focus Areas
-  Agro-Pastoral Zone
-  Marginal Agriculture Zone



*The Sahel JPC is focussed on enhancing resilience through direct interventions in Niger and Burkina Faso as part of a resilience strategy that also targets Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, and Chad.*

*For more information visit [www.usaid.gov/resilience](http://www.usaid.gov/resilience)*



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