

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF FAO
EBOLA RECOVERY CONFERENCE
9–10 JULY 2015**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

First, let me thank you for the opportunity to be here and to speak on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The unprecedented scale of the Ebola virus disease outbreak continues to affect the food security, economies and livelihoods of the three worst-hit countries: Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone.

Since the onset of the crisis, FAO has advocated for a focus on building resilience in the worst-affected countries and tackling food insecurity.

The outbreak has seriously constrained the agriculture sector. Border closures, quarantines, hunting bans, access to fields and their animals prohibited, as well as other restrictions have hindered people's access to food. Their livelihoods have been threatened, and markets and agricultural value chains disrupted.

With a broad range of partners, including national governments, WFP, the World Bank, USAID and CIRAD, FAO has been — and is still — forcefully working towards analysing the immediate and underlying causes of food insecurity and evaluating risks in the most affected countries.

Through various crop, food security and market assessments in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, FAO has highlighted the impact of Ebola in terms of loss of productivity and household incomes, labour shortages, market disruptions and rising food insecurity.

FAO continues to seek to assist countries to build their resilience by developing long-term prevention and control approaches to reduce the likelihood of future Ebola outbreaks and improve preparedness for overall disease response.

FAO recommends a post-crisis examination of the complex and interwoven causes including ecological in order to gain a better understanding of what triggered the spillover of Ebola virus from wildlife to humans. We need to take stock from the experiences in the three most affected countries, through a One Health approach, in order to understand the emergence of the disease at the human-animal-ecosystem interface.

As part of inter-agency efforts, FAO has appealed for USD 42.5 million to provide direct assistance to 170 000 vulnerable households in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and other at-risk countries.

FAO's resilience programme first contributes to save lives by stopping the spread of the disease as part of a UN-coordinated response through social mobilization,

training and awareness raising activities via FAO networks of extension services and animal health workers.

FAO also aims to restore incomes and agricultural production to safeguard livelihoods; reduce risks and improve early warning systems and emergency response; and strengthen coordination for improved response by reinforcing food security/nutrition clusters and surge mechanisms.

To-date, FAO has received just under one-quarter of the funds needed to carry out this vital work. With these funds, FAO has been able to provide crucial support to affected populations in the three worst-hit countries. These include community campaigns to help stop the spread of the disease, savings and loans schemes, particularly targeted at women, and in-kind or financial support to safeguard livelihoods.

As we move forward in the **recovery effort** FAO would wish to again highlight the *dire need* to address the root causes. In concluding, a lot has been achieved and countries need to be praised but a lot remains to be done.

We look to all of you to help build resilient livelihoods and futures for the people of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone so this may not happen again.