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## Summary-Priority to Communities' Resilience and Development in the Sahel

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sahel is currently facing the highest level of increase in food insecurity and hunger in the world. According to the United Nations report on food security and nutrition published in 2018, throughout the past 11 years, there has been an increase of 13,1 million people who are facing food insecurity. Despite the mobilisation of a variety of actors, ranging from states, regional organisations, the donor community, international and national NGOs to deliver food assistance to the most vulnerable, the situation is worsening.

The food security crisis in the Sahel is worsening even though the structural causes of hunger in the region are well-known: chronic poverty, weak access to essential social services, poor governance, inequality or the inadequacy of the agricultural models. These structural factors are compound by external factors, such as the consequences of climate change and the multiplication of conflicts throughout the region, which has been forcefully displacing millions of people.

On a regional level, States have succeeded in establishing a unique system to prevent and manage food crises, which is supported by technical tools to prevent hunger. Nonetheless, what is lacking is an investment in a holistic response to fight against food insecurity that would encompass both the structural and cyclical factors simultaneously. Although short-term responses and solutions are being implemented, the investment in communities' resilience to create long-term and fundamental change is still lagging far behind.

The change of context at the regional level with the rise of insecurity and the proliferation of armed groups has compounded the Sahel's food security crisis. As such, the Sahel is often seen solely through conflict & security or migration lens, whereas hunger is the most significant problem confronted by communities. To approach the Sahel crisis solely by linking security and development is fraught with risks and underestimates the importance of governance to help build the resilience of people.

Oxfam, Save the Children and Action Against Hunger call upon all actors working in and on the Sahel towards a strong mobilisation to end food and nutritional insecurity by:

- Improving existing food crisis prevention and management systems, through the effective integration of the pastoral lean season, a better involvement of civil

society organisations and the sustainability of the regional agricultural stock reserve by considering the three lines of defence and especially local stocks;

- Putting in place a multi-sectoral and sustainable approach for building the resilience capacities of men and women, through the extension of social safety nets for the most vulnerable, the respect of state commitments regarding agriculture and a reflection on the current agricultural model;
- Ensuring that public development assistance is not used for security purposes, but to meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities.