

Structural measures to mitigate the global food system crisis

Implemented by the *Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag)*
As part of the special initiative *Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems*

Global Challenge

A significant increase in the number of people facing hunger due to the impact of the war against Ukraine on global agri-markets

The war against Ukraine has not only had a devastating impact on the local population, but it also continues to affect global food systems worldwide, hitting agricultural markets that are already under pressure. Extreme weather events caused by climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and high input prices have led to an increase in food prices leaving more people affected by hunger. The annual SOFI report outlines that though the number of hungry people dropped slightly in 2022, down to 735 million from 739 the previous year, hunger levels have stagnated at a high number far above the figures from before the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries that import large amounts of food from Russia and Ukraine – who are among the biggest exporters of wheat, maize, and sunflower oil – are those most directly affected by the global food system crisis. The blockade of the Ukrainian seaports, through which 95 per cent of grain exports are shipped, has led to shortages and rising prices. In addition, higher production and transport costs due to increased energy prices have worsened the crisis. Meanwhile, the global community has put measures in place to decrease vulnerability. A limited-term free trade agreement between the EU and Ukraine has been agreed, with the EU supporting the development of alternative freight routes (rail, truck, inland waterways) through EU territory, so-called "solidarity lanes," and strategic investments have been made in the sustainable transformation of agricultural and food systems.



L: Sunflower farming in Tanzania.

The Project Strategy

The project combines emergency aid with measures to support the transformation towards resilient food systems

The global food system crisis requires additional development cooperation efforts in order to mitigate its negative impacts in a quick, efficient, and goal-oriented manner. Hence, the project identified vulnerable target groups, local needs, and the potential to jointly implement activities and measures that not only alleviate the immediate consequences of the food system crisis, but also contribute to increasing the resilience of local people in the medium-term against external shocks. Structural measures which enhance smallholder farmers' skills and capacities to increase local production of food and agricultural inputs are supported, enabling them to mitigate the consequences of current and future crises that affect food security.

Name of the Project	Structural measures to mitigate the global food system crisis
Name of the Global Fund	Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Region	Global, 37 countries
Implemented by	9 GIZ projects with several local and international partners
Project Volume	17.3 million Euros
Duration	05/2022 - 12/2024

The Fund Single Measure (EZM) is one of four i4Ag projects commissioned by BMZ responsible for the implementation of an emergency food aid; it goes beyond the fund's impact framework and therefore does not directly contribute to the fund's impact matrix.

Most Important Activities

- Distribution of inputs for agricultural production such as seeds, organic fertilisers, and pesticides
- Distribution of machinery for harvest processing
- Conducting gender-sensitive capacity-building measures on topics such as the production and use of organic fertilisers, good agricultural practices and diversification
- Preparation of studies to strengthen local food systems by improving a gender-sensitive knowledge base

Methodological Approach & Sustainability

Building on existing GIZ projects and partnerships, the project aims to implement additional activities and measures that contribute to the mitigation of the global food systems crisis' impacts. The Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture (i4Ag) channels the financial resources (known as Ukraine special cash funds) that BMZ provides for emergency aid and serves as a vehicle to implement structural measures to assist those most affected by war against Ukraine. In total, nine GIZ projects along with fifteen partner organisations have reached over 350,000 people in 37 countries. As the measures are embedded in ongoing GIZ projects, they contribute indirectly to achieving the respective objectives of the participating projects. This ensures that impacts already achieved are not lost due to the consequences of the war against Ukraine.

The Main Objective

Increase the resilience of smallholder farmers against the challenges of the global food system crisis through a combination of emergency aid and capacity-building measures

The implementing projects are the global projects "Alliances for Trade Facilitation", "Rural Employment with Focus on Youth", "Green Innovation Centres in the Agricultural and Food Sector", "Knowledge for Nutrition (K4N)", "Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture", "Strategic Development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust" and the programme "Sustainability and Standards in global Agriculture Value Chains", as well as the projects "Rural Governance in South Sudan" and "Support of Agroecological Transformation Processes in India".

The activities are divided into short-term, medium-term, and long-term measures to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers against the impacts of the global food system crisis. Short-term measures, such as the procurement of means of production, have been used to cushion acute shortfalls, bottlenecks, and sudden price increases. This ensures the continuity of economic activities and thus income and employment for the target groups. In addition, activities have been implemented that increase the resilience of the target groups in the medium term (e.g., through training on the goods procured, sustainable soil cultivation, production of organic fertiliser) and make them less dependent on crises and high global market prices. In Burkina Faso, for example, dependence on imported fertilisers was reduced through the local production of compost. The measure can be continued independently by the target group after the implementation period of the fund. In the long term, smallholder farmers can benefit, for example, from the inclusion of sunflower production in the crop rotation in Kenya. Since oilseed cultivation is very profitable, it can be used as start-up financing for further production.

140,000 people with better access to input for agricultural production

56,000 people with improved knowledge on how to mitigate negative impacts of the global food system crisis

207,500 people with access to measures which enhance their resilience against external shocks affecting global food systems



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