



TRANSFORMING SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND CLIMATE SENSITIVE FOOD SOVEREIGN REGION: 'BUILDING BACK BETTER FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY'



Transforming Sub-Saharan Africa towards inclusive and climate sensitive food sovereign region: 'Building back better for food sovereignty'

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AERC	African Economic Research Consortium
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank
ARC ltd	African Risk Capacity Insurance company
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance of USAID
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CIDSE	International Cooperation for Development Solidarity
CONASUR	National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation
DoDMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DRMFSS	Disaster Risk Management Food Security Sector
EAFF	East Africa Federation of Farmers
ELRP	The Emergency Locust Response Program
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSAV	Faculty of Agro-veterinary Sciences
FTS	Fertilizer Tree Systems
GDPs	Gross Domestic Products
GHS	GreenHouse Gases
GHI	Global Hunger Index
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
HSNP	Hunger Safety Net Programme
IDA	International Development Association of the World Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
INGC	National Disaster Management Institute
JENA	Jesuit Justice Ecology Network of Africa
KATC	Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans



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NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDMEC	National Disaster Management Executive Committee
NDMU	National Disaster Management Unit
NECOC	National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre
NFSP	National Food Security Programme
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PHHE	Participatory Health and Hygiene Education
PROPAC	Sub-Regional Platform of Farmers' Organizations in Central Africa
ROPFA	Network of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SCPs	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFERA	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
STAR-P	Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project
UMNAGRI	Maghreb and North African Farmers Union
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VHWs	Village Health Workers
VUP	Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme



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Specifically, JENA appreciates the **authors** Dennis Kyalo (Researcher and Policy Analyst, JENA) and Fr. Charlie B. Chilufya, S.J (Director, JENA) Special regards go to the diverse **experts from institutions within and outside Africa** who gave their contributions either by participating in webinars, as key informants, through sharing some reports or information to enrich the report and reviewing the report. Specifically, the authors are: Dr. Judith N. Nguli & Galligan Bryan - Jesuit Justice, Ecology Network Africa (JENA); Ms. Yvone Kuntai - Jesuits Hekimani Center (Kenya); Fr. Noël Cyprien Razafinandraina S.J. - Arrupe Training and Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (Madagascar); Fr. Jean Mboma M - Faculty of Agro-veterinary Sciences, Loyola University (Congo); Arrupe Jesuit Institute - AJI (Ghana); and Paul Desmarais S. J. & Fr. Fratern Masawe - Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre - KATC (Zambia); Fr. Anold Moyo S.J - Silveira House, Jesuit Social Justice and Development Centre (Zimbabwe); and Jesuit Centre for Ecology and Development - JCED (Malawi); and a number of anonymous participants and contributors.



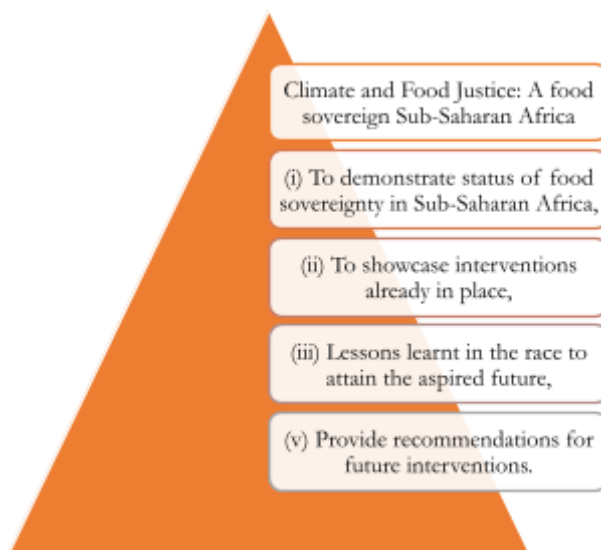
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Executive summary

Background

Achieving an inclusive and sustainable climate sensitive food secure Africa remains at the heart of key global and regional development goals such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063 goals and commitments. This also includes global protocols like the Paris Agreement of 2015 on climate change that seeks to ensure developed nations take responsibility to help developing nations cope with climate change. Research evidence shows ecological climate change related calamities like droughts, floods and locusts, global or regional systemic issues and more recently COVID-19 pandemic have derailed most of the efforts to attain food sovereignty in Africa. This has over the years attracted interventions from governments and development partners including Faith Based Organizations (FBOs).

As part of its work to influence policies and to promote African solutions for food sovereignty Jesuit Justice Ecology Network of Africa (JENA), sought to understand the salient issues affecting Africa's food sovereignty drawing from past interventions and lessons learnt to inform the way forward. JENA's work cuts across Central Africa; North West Africa; West Africa; Eastern Africa; and Madagascar. JENA's drive and conviction is from the increasing evidence of alarming levels of food in-sovereignty and other aspects of human life in the continent which are largely driven by disasters related to climate change. In addition, with the conviction that some Climate Smart Agriculture practices, while they have the potential to increase agricultural yields; some lead to increased use of chemical inputs that are detrimental to the environment including worsening climate change. As such, JENA champions farming/production systems based on agroecological and indigenous approaches that sustain food sovereignty and the livelihoods of communities in Africa.





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Guided by the aforementioned background, the case report objectives are to ultimately inform attaining **climate and food justice in Africa**.

Where we are - status of food sovereignty in Africa



Most food insecure are in Africa -

Out of the 690 million people who are hungry globally, 36% (250 million) are from Africa and projected to rise and account for 51% (841 million) by 2030. In addition, Global Hunger Index (GHI) by Severity shows out of 107 countries that were ranked globally, a number of the GHI low-ranking (serious and alarming levels) countries are in Africa. This includes

Kenya (84), Tanzania (89), Congo (91), Ethiopia (92), Rwanda (97) and Madagascar (105).

Drivers of food in-sovereignty in Africa

Shocks on agriculture and fisheries directly affect food sovereignty. With more than 70-80 per cent of the people in Africa earning their livelihoods directly or indirectly from agriculture; and most Sub-Saharan countries Gross Domestic product (GDP) contribution being about 30 per cent as at 2019; the detrimental effects on the sector has left a trail of poverty and weakened food sovereignty status. Further, summary from research evidence, some of the specific plausible reasons as to why Africa tends to suffer from chronic food in sovereignty are:

(i) Global systemic issues

- Geopolitics of global food trade and economic policy prescriptions from multilaterals have resulted in some detrimental effects on Africa's food resilience. This includes advice to governments in Africa to take up loans to meet their budgetary deficits while providing some unsustainable solutions like food aid and cash transfers; creating high risk of debt distress and donor dependency.

(ii) High levels of post-harvest losses along food supply chains



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- Post-harvest losses are more prone to producer-traders, mostly on-farm, who tend to have poor food preservation techniques; affecting their household and buyers' food sovereignty; and
- Weak food distribution channels from surplus to deficit areas even within the same country; aggravates post-harvest losses and lowers income margins. This has been worsened by COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted food systems and sources of livelihoods.

(iii) Climate change related ecological concerns

- A vicious cycle of drought, floods, locusts and fall armyworms that has reduced yields from the predominantly small-scale rain-fed production systems;
- Reduced fish stock and productivity due to climate change effects like changing fish breeding patterns; and
- Low uptake of ecological agriculture practices and environmentally friendly innovations among smallholder farmers.

(iv) Weak food and climate policy environment; this includes:

- Poor policy formulation and implementation and inadequate policy coherence. This is coupled with poor governance; in particular, mis-use of public resources meant to enhance food systems, rural-urban migration and limited political good will to implement policies for the better good of the majority;
- Weak intra-Africa food trade; resulting in lesser returns for food producers in the continent, hence lower reinvestment into local production systems;
- Weak disaster preparedness and response; and
- Weak livelihood recovery and social protection mechanisms.

Interventions already in place

Addressing Africa's food crisis has attracted the concerted efforts of different actors including governments and development partners. Existing interventions within the continent include food aid, cash transfers, capacity building and agri-insurance programmes. This is herein presented as case studies including:

(i) Cash transfers and food relief

- World bank offering contingency emergency funds for drought and the COVID-19 response
- FAO cash transfers and survival multi-nutrient feeds to vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. This includes Ethiopia and Sudan
- ActionAid cash transfers to avert the hunger in countries like Somali



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(ii) Enhancing smallholder farmers and pastoralists farm yields and incomes

- U.S Government's and USAID global hunger and food security initiatives like the digital payment systems for agro-produce,
- The World Bank supports innovative AgriTech start-ups in Africa. This includes countries like Kenya
- OXFAM's initiatives to support farmers to access agro-inputs such as seeds and capital. OXFAM's initiative has reached over 60 countries among which are African countries

(iii) Building climate and disaster resilience policy interventions

- FAO Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP) including early warning and tackling flood related outcomes on food security in the Horn of Africa
- The African Union (AU) drought insurance support to countries like Madagascar.
- Government led Social protection programmes. Such programmes in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa have been cited as some of the most successful in Africa (ILO, 2020)

(iv) Interventions by JENA through its partner Jesuits Centers

- Championing for agroecology - Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre (KATC), Zambia
- Remodeling the productivity and entrepreneurial potential of small livestock among smallholder farmers - Chicken - Loyola University, Congo
- Diversifying livelihoods through WASH & food processing initiatives - Silveira House, Zimbabwe
- Kitchen gardening as an alternative source of livelihood and food - Jesuit Hakimani Centre (JHC), Kenya
- Land security for food security advocacy - Arrupe Training and Center for Environment and Sustainable Development, Madagascar

Effectiveness of the existing interventions and lessons learnt

From an assessment of the effectiveness of the existing interventions, most have to a huge extent contributed to short-term gains like food provision to the needy (within the first 2 months) and restoring livelihoods through some capacity building (+12 months). However, few of the programmes manage to help those affected by the crisis regain sustainable livelihood and risk reduction (+24 months). Nevertheless, there is existing evidence interventions present candid lessons including:

Need to build robust climate and disaster resilience policy interventions



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- (i) Use of early warning mechanisms can avert challenges to food sovereignty a case example of the FAO locust early warning;
- (ii) There is need for African countries to be insured against the threats of food sovereignty, this attempt is seen in drought insurance in Madagascar; and
- (iii) Countries with robust government led social protection programmes exhibit better food sovereignty outcomes.

Need for programmes to sustainably enhance smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishers yields and incomes

- (iv) Agri-techs and innovation to compliment food sovereignty initiatives has proven useful especially in this COVID-19 era; such as the digital payment systems by USAID and AgriTechs for startups by the World bank;
- (v) Collaborations and partnerships benefit more people with better interventions; such as the African Union (AU), African Development Bank (AfDB) and African Risk Capacity Insurance company (ARC ltd) collaboration to deliver a drought insurance package to Madagascar; and
- (vi) Capacity building vulnerable/ affected persons and communities is important for sustainable livelihood recovery after a food crisis; such as the programmes spearheaded by JENA network Jesuits centers.

Conclusion

Different institutions including governments and development partners have over the years played a vital role in lifting many people in Africa from hunger. However, responses to the food sovereignty challenges in the continent have to date not been as efficient and effective as expected. Most current interventions are short term and not sustainable as they rarely go beyond the Early Recovery Period (+12 months). This is further evidenced by Africa's existing struggles to attain food sovereignty, which COVID-19 pandemic has just aggravated. The review recognizes the urgent need for better timely interventions to sustainably attain food sovereignty in Africa; this includes timely policy support to the Agriculture sector and the need to ensure that a particular policy direction is anchored on evidence. This also includes learning from international and continental best practices as evidence.

In addition, the alarming GHI scores, effects of ecological disasters like locust, droughts and floods, COVID-19 pandemic and aggravated poverty levels are not just statistics and reports, but an alarming call for action to out-scale existing interventions and reach more people faster. As such, the issues are not only challenges but opportunities to collaboratively think and act better for a sustainable food sovereign future Africa.



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Recommendations

- **Capacity building for producer traders such as farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk to:**

- Reduce post-harvest losses, particularly, mostly on-farm and in open food markets while supporting market linkages to move food from surplus areas to deficit areas;
- Make ecological agriculture work better for food sovereignty and a sustainable planet: Promote inclusive ecological agriculture through capacity building of food producers including smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk to take up climate-smart practices such as minimal use of agro-chemicals and more agro-forestry.

Capacity building efforts can be championed by Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Government allied institutions

- **Advocacy:** - While leading from the front, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) needs to support global and regional advocacy for:

- Interventions that offer long-term, sustainable, equitable and impactful development solutions, as opposed to short-term food or cash transfers; while appreciating support offered so far. This is with the recognition that Africa has good climates, arable soils, sufficient water and workforce.
- A conducive better implemented food and climate policy environment. This includes holding their governments accountable to deliver other already formulated food and climate policies. For example, taking advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and advocate for a policy shift from exporting raw agro-products (no value addition) from Africa which fetch low prices in international markets with huge imports of even essential food items like maize, rice and fish which can be produced with the region;
- Producer traders, especially farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk, to take up ecological agriculture practices that hold the potential to build resilience to the effects of climate change;
- Security of land tenure for peasant farmers and other marginalized groups alongside adopting integrated land use planning;
- Building a movement and people power: to act in calling their governments to develop and implement food and climate change policies that support sustainable agriculture practices.



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- **Establish More robust inclusive social protection programmes for resilience.** States (governments) in Africa need to establish strong social protection that takes care of the poor, marginalized and working population including those in the informal sector. While resources are scarce, if existing resources are properly utilized then more would be available for social protection programmes. In addition, more collaboration with development partners supporting such programmes is needed to avoid duplication of efforts could help bridge the resource gap.
- **Promote climate research** while incorporating interventions to strengthen the resilience of food producers including small scale farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk. These efforts can be collaboratively delivered by public and private research institutions including academic institutions.
- **Strengthen international and regional collaborations** Strengthen international and regional collaborations for bigger more impactful programmes within JENA network and like-minded institutions such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), OXFAM, ActionAid, AfDB, European Union (EU), the World Bank and foundations like Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Red Cross. This will be done in collaboration with other Church allied institutions like the Vatican, Caritas Africa and International Cooperation for Development Solidarity (CIDSE) – [Group of Catholic NGOs in Europe] and the Catholic Bishops Conferences.



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1.0 Overview **The concern**

Collaborative efforts to build back better to transform Sub-Saharan Africa towards **inclusive and climate sensitive food secure region** is crucial to withstand compounded food sovereignty threats such as COVID-19 and ecological concerns like drought, floods, locusts and fall armyworms in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063 goals and commitments. Other resultant concerns are peace and security with the threats aggravating conflicts as people have limited ability to afford food items or increasingly compete for scarce food, water, pasture and land.

Food sovereignty is increasingly becoming a concern in Sub-Saharan Africa following the **COVID-19** pandemic and its associated containment measures such as curfews and restrictions on movement which continue to not only be a health concern but also a major economic concern – despite existing humanitarian interventions. Since the onset of COVID-19, **agriculture value and supply chains have been disrupted**. In particular, this is seen from the disrupted farm to fork movement of food, at production (availability), distribution (accessibility), affordability (increased costs) and nutrition (quantity and

Glossary of terms

Within this report key terms are used with the following definitions:

Ecological agriculture - Refers to ensuring healthy farming and healthy food for today and tomorrow (sustainability), by protecting soil, water and climate, promotes biodiversity, and does not contaminate the environment with chemical inputs or genetic engineering.

Food sovereignty - Refers to ecologically appropriate food production, distribution and consumption, social-economic justice and inclusion of producer communities and the people, and use of local food systems as ways to tackle hunger and poverty and guarantee sustainable food security for all people.

Livelihood - Refers to the job or other source of income (occupation) that gives an individual or household the money to buy the things they need. It includes a set of activities such as; securing water, food, fodder, medicine, shelter and clothing which are essential to everyday life that are conducted over one's lifespan.

Social protection - Refers to as a set of public instruments to protect people from an absence or substantial reduction in income; for them to be able to at least access basic needs. The instruments include social insurance, food safety nets, cash transfer programmes to the vulnerable, subsidies and public works programmes.



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quality). According to the UNICEF report of 2019¹ The number of people who suffer from hunger has gradually increased over the years leading to about 820 million globally who are still hungry. As a result, the Zero Hunger target set by the SDGs 2030 has now become more of an idealistic move as opposed to a realistic one.

Aggravating the issue are **environmental** and **ecological concerns** associated with **locust** invasion and **climate change** manifested in **drought** and **floods** – risks and phenomenon to which Sub-Saharan Africa is especially vulnerable. FAO reports show an average 1KM² swarm of locusts is estimated to destroy as much food in a day as is sufficient to feed 35,000 people per day². The locusts have affected hectares of land in Kenya (39,036 ha), Tanzania (450 ha), Somalia (53,665 ha), Sudan (7,122 ha), Eritrea (2,116 ha), and Egypt (755 ha)³. Recurrent waves of drought, floods and frost is also a concern. For example, in 2020 based on FAO estimates of food losses associated with floods in some select countries in Africa, the affected people were: Somalia 2.1 million, Ethiopia 1.1 million, Sudan 0.875 million, South Sudan 0.856 million, Kenya 0.85 million; Burundi 0.85 million, Congo 0.7 million and Djibouti 0.175 people⁴. This comes at a time when food losses associated with drought and floods have also affected many people over many years.

The COVID-19 period is a critical period to **build back better** and presents a window of opportunity that we cannot afford to miss, to make a difference in establishing more sustainable and resilient food systems. It is an opportunity to forge inclusive collaborations to out-scale existing interventions; with so far, several initiatives having been initiated and implemented by governments, development partners and even local communities to build the people's resilience to the food sovereignty crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa.

¹ UNICEF (2019). The state of food insecurity in the world: Safeguarding against economic slowdowns and downturns. Accessed from: <https://www.unicef.org/media/55926/file/SOFI-2019-in-brief.pdf>

² FAO (2020). Desert locust crisis: The Crisis in Numbers. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/desertlocust/es/>

³ FAO (2021). Desert Locust Bulletin: General situation during January 2021 Forecast until mid-March 2021. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/common/ecg/562/en/DL508e.pdf>

⁴ FAO (2020). Crop Prospects and Food Situation: Quarterly Global Report, December 2020. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb2334en/cb2334en.pdf>



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1.1 Case report rationale and objectives

Collaboration for a just society being at the heart of contemporary JENA mission, the institution positions itself in Sub-Saharan Africa's food sovereignty and ecological agriculture concerns. This is done through seeking to partner with other like-minded institutions to not only support development work but also support advocacy on justice and peace. This is because improved food sovereignty could enhance gender equality, prevent conflict, and build and sustain peace among vulnerable food poor households and communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is because more often than not people are willing to go to extreme lengths to acquire food given it is a basic need; hence the often-high incidences of conflict including gender-based violence and instability in famine-torn areas.

It is said, one aspect that gives human beings the ability to control all animals is not really their intellectual capacity but the ability to cooperate. This shows us the strength in collaboration and the need to bring our heads together to contribute to addressing food sovereignty concerns in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly now COVID-19 has aggravated the situation.

The report presents the salient issues affecting Sub-Saharan Africa's food sovereignty drawing from past interventions and lessons learnt to inform the way forward. In addition, it highlights areas of collaboration and potential benefits of connecting as a church network with the support of the Vatican to collaborate with other development institutions. The Vatican has the strategic advantage to link the church institutions with wider stakeholders to help make a difference. This gives the church an opportunity to leverage on to co-create a project with bigger impact.

The overall goal of the report is to **inform building a better case** to change the story through multi-stakeholder collaboration to deliver both short-term (such as, food/cash aid) and long-term solutions like promoting ecological agriculture and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCPs) practices. Specifically, the case report objectives are:



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- To demonstrate Sub-Saharan Africa's status of food Sovereignty: Through providing insights into global and regional systemic issues and in-country and regional food sovereignty situations;
- To showcase interventions already in place: including actors involved and lessons learnt in specific countries using case studies;
- To describe the future food sovereign Sub-Saharan Africa envisioned; and
- To draw actionable recommendations on how best to build more resilient food systems.

1.2 JENA's drive and conviction

With increasing evidence of alarming levels of food in-sovereignty and other aspects of human life in the continent, there is a need for clarity on how to address such impacts. Many of the proposed solutions increase pressure on small-scale food producers to take up new initiatives such as using hybrid and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) seed, and increasing the use of chemical inputs. These solutions, while they may increase food production in the short-run, they may act largely to the detriment of food sovereignty, environmental conservation and livelihoods, and are ultimately likely to worsen the impact of climate change by further degrading the soil, destroying biodiversity and using chemical fertilizers, generating even more greenhouse gas emissions.

With the conviction that some Climate Smart Agriculture practices including increased use of chemical inputs are detrimental to the environment including worsening climate change, JENA champions farming/ production systems based on agroecological and indigenous approaches that sustain food sovereignty and the livelihoods of communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. It seeks to carefully resist some corporate industrialization of African agriculture that can result in massive land grabs, destruction of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems, displacement of indigenous peoples especially the pastoral communities and hunter gatherers and the destruction of their livelihoods and cultures.



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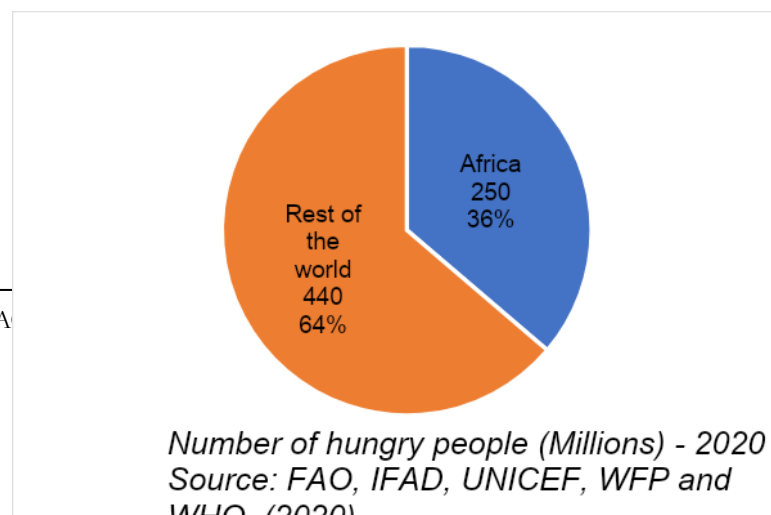
In addition, JENA believes in African driven solutions to problems in Sub-Saharan Africa and a belief in the richness of its diversity. The network aims to be a strong voice that shapes policy on the continent in the area of community rights, family farming, promotion of traditional knowledge and knowledge systems, the environment and natural resource management.

2.0 Sub-Saharan Africa's case: The status of food sovereignty

2.1 What is the status?

2.1.1 Sub-Saharan Africa's food sovereignty and poverty context and implications

Food justice is a pressing issue in Sub-Saharan Africa regardless of the current COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. But food justice, sustainable food recovery, and food sovereignty remain one of the top concerns as we fight COVID-19. Cracks in the food systems have never been more obvious than now. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) et al. (2020) globally nearly 690 million (8.9% or nearly 1 in 10 people) are hungry, while among children below the age of 5 years 21.3% (144.0 million) are stunted, 6.9% (47.0 million) wasted and 5.6% (38.3 million) overweight⁵. FAO further estimates that 26.4% of the world's population, about 2 billion people have struggled with either moderate or severe levels of food insecurity, mostly attributed to inability to afford or at times unavailability of safe and nutritious food items.



Out of the **690 million** people who are hungry globally, **36% (250 million)** are from Africa and projected to rise and

Food Security and Nutrition in the World
et al. Rome, FAO. Accessed from:

⁵ FAO



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account for 51% (841 million) by 2030⁵. This resonates with the recently launched 2020 Global Hunger Index (GHI) by Severity which shows out of 107 countries that were ranked globally, a number of the **GHI low-ranking (serious and alarming levels) countries are in Africa** such as Kenya (84), Tanzania (89), Congo (91), Ethiopia (92), Rwanda (97) and Madagascar (105)^{6&7}. The index is based on four indicators namely: “*undernourishment* (share of the population with insufficient caloric intake), *child stunting* (share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition), *child wasting* (share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition), and *child mortality* (mortality rate of children under age five, partly reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments)”^{6&7}.

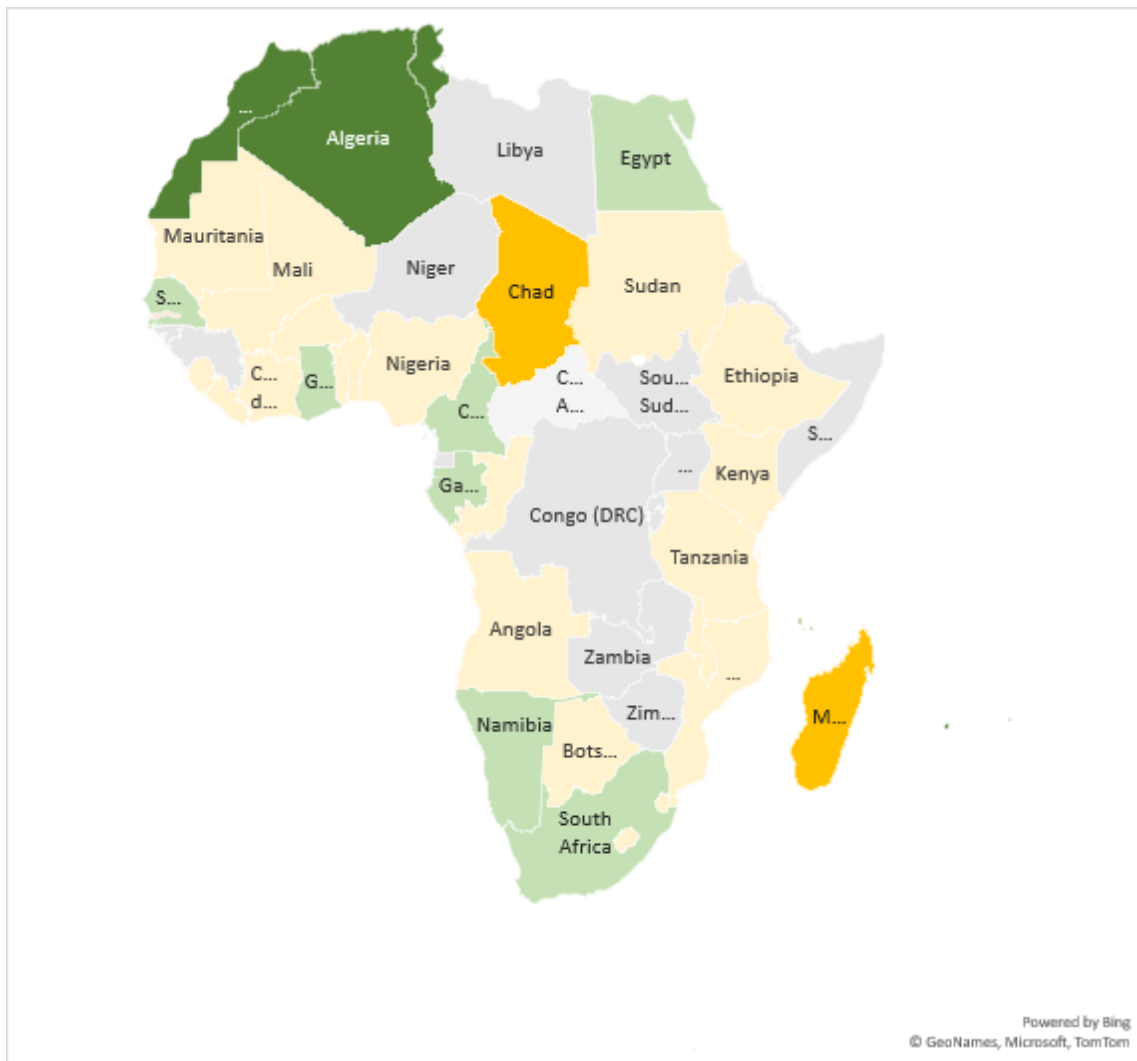
⁶ Global Hunger Index (2020). 2020 Global Hunger Index by Severity. Accessed from: <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/ranking.html>

⁷ Global Hunger Index (2020). 2020 Global Hunger Index: One Decade to Zero Hunger Linking Health and Sustainable Food Systems. Accessed from: <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/pdf/en/2020.pdf>



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Figure: Africa Global Hunger Index (GHI) scores 2020



Low (≤ 9.9)	Moderate (10.0–19.9)	Serious (20.0–34.9)	Alarming (35.0–49.9)	Data not available

On the other hand, different research outputs such as working papers published by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) show **increased poverty inequalities** in Africa, with the estimated proportion of people below the international poverty line (currently set at US \$1.90 a day) in different countries having increased following the on-set



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of COVID-19^{8&9}. This is to a great extent attributed to loss of incomes and sources of livelihoods which has affected the majority of **vulnerable segments of the population** such as women, youth and persons living in marginalized areas.

The above concerns have made food sovereignty in Africa appear as a chronic issue that COVID-19 and emerging ecological concerns have further aggravated. This in totality **affects** also the **attainment of development goals** prioritizing ending hunger, poverty and inequality such as SDG 2 on *Zero Hunger* and Africa's Agenda 2063 Goal (1) on *A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens*. This comes at a time when the 2020 AU summit, which attracted institutions such as FAO, discussed concerns on peace and food security in Africa where it was noted that some of the most conflict prone regions such as Congo, Somalia and South Sudan are also among the most food insecure^{10&11}.

Talking about poverty and food sovereignty in Africa, there is always a direct link with the **agriculture sector**. The sector through its value and supply chains directly provides food and employment to most households in the continent; where **most households consume produce fresh from the farms** which they have either produced or bought from local market outlets. In addition, more than 70-80 per cent of the people in Africa **earn their livelihoods directly or indirectly from agriculture**; with the sector contributing on average 30 percent of most of the Gross Domestic Products (GDPs). For example, its GDP contribution as at 2019 in select Sub-Saharan Africa countries is: Ethiopia (33.5%), Kenya (34.1%), Central African Republic (32.4%), Burundi (28.9%), Mozambique (26.0%), Rwanda

⁸ Ndung'u N. & Shimeles A. (2020). Africa COVID-19 Update: Revisiting Policy Responses and the Long Road to Recovery. AERC Policy Brief. African Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi. Accessed from: <https://aercafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/AERC-Covid-19-Update.pdf>

⁹ AERC (2020). Working Papers on Poverty Consequences of COVID-19 for Kenya, Ethiopia, Senegal and Ghana. African Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi. Accessed from: <https://aercafrica.org/publications/>

¹⁰ AU (2020) Press release: African Union 2020 Summit Commences. Accessed from: <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20200205/african-union-2020-summit-commences>

¹¹ OCHA (2020). Peace and food security: Two imperatives for Africa's development. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Relief Web. Accessed from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/peace-and-food-security-two-imperatives-africa-s-development>



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(23.5%), Uganda (23.1%), Malawi (25.5%), Madagascar (23.3%)¹². As such, any **shocks on the sector have direct ripple effects on poverty and food sovereignty**.

2.1.2 Why is Africa still suffering from hunger?

Informed by review of existing reports, panel session discussions during webinars and interviews with key informants it came out that Africa holds high potential to be food-self-sufficient though there are a myriad of reasons why the continent is not there yet. This is also amid concerns that the continent is majorly fed by smallholder farmers who tend to be the poorest of the poorest. Overall, there are salient issues that affect food sovereignty in Africa, key among them being: Global systemic issues; COVID-19; Poor policy formulation and implementation; Poor governance; Climate change particularly drought and floods; Weak social protection mechanisms; and Weak disaster preparedness and response. These are as described in the section that follows.

2.1.2.1 Global systemic issues

While Africa appreciates the global and regional policy efforts to address food sovereignty concerns in the continent, to some extent failed regional and in-country economic policy instruments and international policy recommendations are the drivers of Africa's chronic food insecurity. In recent years **economic policy prescriptions from multilaterals** mainly from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB), United Nations (UN) system and some developed countries have shaped policy prescriptions for food-in-sovereignty challenges in Africa. This includes advice to governments in Africa to take up loans to meet their budgetary deficits; particularly covering the cost of additional spending on disaster response programmes and expanding infrastructure. This has left many countries in high risk of debt distress where they are even using loans to repay other loans hence the would-be benefits are to a large extent not realized. In addition, some global partners have

¹² The World Bank (2020). Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP)-Sub-Saharan Africa. Accessed from: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?end=2019&locations=ZG&start=2019&view=map&year=2017>



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often offered grants and in-kind support including food aid to the vulnerable. While these efforts address the immediate food needs, they create donor dependency and are not sustainable. Other global policy prescriptions include liberalizing the agro-markets including allowing for trade with global partners; as opposed to protecting infant industries in the agriculture sector. While this is good to encourage competitiveness, it has exposed developing countries to the **geopolitics of global food trade**, food price shocks due to foreign exchange fluctuations, and worse still reduced the incomes of smallholder farmers and traders in the sector when cheaper food items like maize and rice are imported into the country¹³. Nevertheless, the development partners are not solely to blame as all this has happened under the watch of **African political leadership** who could have otherwise adopted more sound home-based economic policies such as investing in macro food production and marketing programmes to address the crisis since the independence days.

While global treaties like the **Paris Agreement of 2015** on climate change require developed countries to take a leading role in supporting developing nations to adapt to climate change and its associated effects food sovereignty¹⁴; their help is not compulsory hence not fully guaranteed. This is because not all aspects of the treaty are legally binding and amount of financial support to be accorded has not been specified; hence developed nations have limited accountability in case they fail to meet their obligations to support their developing counterparts¹⁵. This happens even though developing nations tend to struggle more to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change, with **developed nations** (majorly United States

¹³ The Economist Intelligence Unit (2018). Global food security index 2018: Building resilience in the face of rising food-security risks. EIU. pp. 6. Accessed from: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKFwj16Lfo0pzwAhVE8uAKHeANC2wQFjAAegQICRAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Ffoodsecurityindex.eiu.com%2FHome%2FDownloadResource%3FfileName%3DEIU%2520Global%2520Food%2520Security%2520Index%2520-%25202018%2520Findings%2520%2526%2520Methodology.pdf&usq=AOvVaw0IX9_eiGgCIeqa3pUh3gpm

¹⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] (2016). The Paris Agreement. Accessed from: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

¹⁵ Climate & Development Knowledge Network (2016). Opinion: Paris Agreement – Opportunities and challenges for developing countries. Accessed from: https://cdkn.org/2016/02/opinion-paris-agreement-opportunities-and-challenges/?loclang=en_gb



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and European Union) and China being the **major emitters of Green House Gases (GHS)** accounting for 41.5% of total global emissions as at 2018¹⁶.

2.1.2.2 Post-harvest losses and weak food distribution systems amid COVID-19 pandemic

Although SDG 2 on Zero Hunger targets seek to reduce food loss and waste; this has remained an elusive dream particularly along Sub-Saharan Africa's food supply chains. Food lost at production stage before reaching the retail and consumer levels stands at 14 per cent and 14.5 percent globally and in Sub-Saharan Africa respectively¹⁷. The losses tend to be more prone to producer-traders, mostly on-farm, who have poor food preservation techniques. In particular, the losses are associated with erratic weather like rains that destroy harvested produce like cereals and pulses drying in the fields, pests, poor handling and market access challenges¹⁷. This not only affects their household food sovereignty, but also that of and buyers. Worse still is food loss presents unnecessary pressure on the environment to produce more¹⁷. Weak food distribution channels from surplus to deficit areas even within the same country; aggravates post-harvest losses and lowers income margins. FAO estimates that Sub-Saharan Africa's food losses are up to US \$4 billion annually¹⁸. This has been worsened by COVID-19 pandemic that has disrupted food systems and sources of livelihoods. With COVID-19, FAO further estimates on-farm food losses in Sub-Saharan Africa for vegetables and fruits are up to 50 per cent, relatively the highest globally and up to 18 per cent for cereals and pulses almost at par with Asia where it is equally high¹⁸.

COVID-19 and its associated restrictions effect on food sovereignty is mainly due to disrupted access to input and output markets; worse still is loss of lives and livelihoods in different countries in Africa. This has plugged many into poverty and resulted in some

¹⁶ World Resources Institute (2020). This Interactive Chart Shows Changes in the World's Top 10 Emitters. Accessed from: <https://www.wri.org/insights/interactive-chart-shows-changes-worlds-top-10-emitters>

¹⁷ FAO (2019). The State of Food and Agriculture 2019. Moving forward on food loss and waste reduction. Rome. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca6030en/ca6030en.pdf>

¹⁸ FAO (2020). Food losses increase during COVID-19, a major hurdle to Africa's development. FAO Regional Office for Africa. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1310100/>



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children and poor households going hungry especially for children who would have otherwise had a meal in school, which were closed for longer periods than normally. A case example is Kenya, where it is reported the estimated proportion of people below the poverty line may have increased by 13 percentage points from 28.9 percent in 2019 (pre-COVID) to 41.9 per cent as at September 2020¹⁹. The scenario is not any different in most countries in Africa.

2.1.2.3 Low uptake of innovations among smallholderfarmers

Uptake of innovations including ecological agriculture and agroforestry practices tends to be slow among smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa; weakening their ability to adopt to climate change for food sovereignty²⁰. This is mainly attributed to the farmers' intrinsic factors like knowledge, perceptions and attitudes towards the innovation and extrinsic factors such as the expected costs and benefits of adoption²⁵. In instances where smallholder farmers have attempted to take up adaptation measures, they are usually a mix of small-scale simple strategies such as mixed cropping, planting improved and drought tolerant crops like cassava, mulching, and staggered planting²¹. FAO identifies land tenure systems where smallholder farmers do not own the land and limited access to credit and finance to be key barriers to uptake of innovations such as irrigation technologies in Africa²². In a study in southern Africa (Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe), to boost uptake of innovations among smallholder farmers, Ajayi *et al.* (2011) recommends championing for affordable and easy to replicate agro-ecological practices including creating synergy between 'organic versus inorganic' practices such as Fertilizer Tree Systems (FTS) and mineral

¹⁹ Nafula, N., Kyalo, D., Munga, B. and Ngugi, R (2020). Poverty and Distributional Effects of COVID-19 on Households in Kenya. AERC Working Paper. African Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi. Accessed from: https://aercafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/03_Kenya-Covid-19-Nov-29.pdf

²⁰ Meijer S.S., Catacutan D., Ajayi O. C., Sileshi G. W., Nieuwenhuis M. (2015). The role of knowledge, attitudes and perceptions in the uptake of sustainable agricultural and agroforestry innovations among smallholder farmers in Africa. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability* 13(1):40-54. Accessed from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14735903.2014.912493>

²¹ Asare-Nuamah, P., Mandaza, M. S., & Amungwa, A. F. (2021). Adaptation Strategies and Farmer-led Agricultural Innovations to Climate Change in Mbire District of Zimbabwe. *International Journal of Rural Management*. Accessed from: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0973005221999913>

²² FAO (2020). The state of food and agriculture: Overcoming water challenges in agriculture. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Rome, 2020. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb1447en/CB1447EN.pdf>



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fertilizers to sustainably build soil fertility and soil organic matter²³. Other innovations, whose uptake is low and can be promoted include agroforestry as a win-win solution for meeting food sovereignty and climate change mitigation and adaptation²⁴. These among other approaches to boost uptake of innovations can contribute to increasing smallholder farmers productivity for a more food sovereign Africa.

2.1.2.4 Climate change particularly drought and floods

It is rightly and more and more recognized that climate change is one of the major economic, environmental and social challenges of our times, now exacerbated by COVID-19. Africa is clearly the continent most vulnerable to climate change effects. With around 80 percent of Africa's population directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, **mainly rain-fed farming**, hundreds of millions of people do not have the same safety net accorded to those in wealthier, industrialized nations.

A **vicious cycle of ecological disasters** ranging from droughts, floods and more recently locusts has over decades become a reality in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Drought and floods disasters dominate the profile of disasters in the region, affecting about 12.5 million people annually²⁵. Drought has resulted in some households lacking even clean water to drink, leave alone practicing agriculture, a case example of Madagascar. Due to lack of better options, some people end up over exploiting forest resources to meet the basic needs of their families. This includes farming in riparian/ forest lands and cutting down trees to use

²³ Ajayi O. C., Place F., Akinnifesi F. K., Sileshi G. W. (2011). Agricultural Success from Africa –Case of Fertilizer Tree Systems in Southern Africa. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability* 9(1): 129-136. Accessed from:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275887979_Ajayi_CO_Place_F_Akinnifesi_FK_and_Sileshi_G_W_2011_Agricultural_success_from_Africa_the_case_of_fertilizer_tree_systems_in_southern_Africa_Malawi_Tanzania_Mozambique_Zambia_and_Zimbabwe_International

²⁴ Syampungani S., Chirwa P. W., Akinnifesi F. K., Ajayi O. C. (2010) The Potential of using agroforestry as a win-win solution to climate change mitigation and adaptation and meeting food security in southern Africa. *Agricultural journal* 5(2): 80-88. Accessed from: <https://medwelljournals.com/abstract/?doi=aj.2010.80.88>

²⁵ UNDP. (2018). Baseline study on disaster recovery in Africa: Transitioning from relief to recovery. Accessed from: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKFwiV2OPiqezvAhXkrnEKHZn7AVkQFjACegQIBBAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.undp.org%2Fcontent%2Fdam%2Ffundp%2Flibrary%2Fplanet%2Fdr-recovery%2FBaseline%20Study%20on%20Disaster%20Recovery%20in%20Africa.pdf&usq=AOvVaw38nSNBHNTpc4mb3zxNZvDO>



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and trade them as fuel wood or charcoal. This further worsens the climate change concerns due to environmental degradation. Floods and landslides are also affecting some regions making people unable to grow food crops. This shows there is a need for the affected countries to organize people to enhance productivity with this kind of ecological problems.

2.1.2.5 Reduced fish stock productivity



Climate change also affects livestock and fish breeding and migratory patterns **impacting the livelihoods of millions of pastoralists and fishers**²⁶.

Climate change effects result in **increased temperatures** in water bodies including oceans and lakes; this is through absorption of excess greenhouse gasses²⁷. As a result, aquatic animals including fish change their reproduction and living grounds. In addition, rise in sea surface temperatures is also associated with severe hurricanes and intense El Niño events along coastal areas including bringing droughts and floods²². Climate change is also associated with **ocean acidification** due to more absorption of carbon dioxide affecting growth of coral reefs which are major spawning (breeding) grounds for fish, source of nitrogen among other essential nutrients for sea life and carbon and nitrogen fixing in the sea²⁸. Acidic waters also affect some marine animals' ability to build their protective shells or skeletons.

Changes to ocean current systems is also often associated with climate change due to changes in water temperatures, wind patterns and melting of ice glaciers adding to the water

²⁶ OECD. (2020). Climate change and food systems: Climate change and the policy implications for agriculture and fisheries. Accessed from: <https://www.oecd.org/agriculture/topics/climate-change-and-food-systems/>

²⁷ IUCN (2017). Ocean warming. Issues Brief. International Union for Conservation of Nature. Accessed from: https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/ocean_warming_issues_brief_final.pdf

²⁸ EPA (2020). Climate Change Indicators: Oceans. United States Environmental Protection Agency. Accessed from: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/oceans>



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content; as a result, affecting marine productivity. Changing ocean currents and sea levels have also been associated with coastal flooding²⁸. **Oxygen depleted/ dead zones** (areas of water bodies with low levels oxygen) are expanding around the world due to heating up of water and eutrophication (excessive growth of algae and plankton due runoff fertilizers that find their way into water bodies) leading to lower ability to hold less oxygen^{22 & 23}. Dead zones push away fish and other aquatic life affecting aquatic food webs; this is a major concern in Africa given fresh water bodies such as lakes and rivers are important sources of small pelagic fish species which are the most consumed in Africa's households²⁹. Overall, the effects on water bodies and fish breeding patterns threatens fish stock productivity resulting in affecting sustainable and health livelihoods in Africa. Though there have been attempts to increase production through small-scale fish farming, this has not been successful due to low recognition of the importance of fish for nutrition diversification and a source of livelihoods in most countries in Africa²⁹.

Governance and poor fish resource allocation issues are also of concern especially in international waters. Most of Africa's deep sea/ international waters tend to be exploited and worse still the fish finds its way to other continents. In addition, the vessels and industries involved employ a few highly specialized people, who are rarely Africans. This results in a sea **food trade surplus** (imports of fish being more than exports)²⁹; exporting high-quality fish and importing more low-quality fish. Overall, despite Africa being surrounded by oceans and in-land lakes and rivers, statistics show the continent's net fish imports from countries outside the continent are about 74 per cent; a reflection of **weak intra-African fish trade**³⁰. Consequently, local fishers' sources of livelihood are not only threatened but also the nutrition status and food self-sufficiency in Africa is also at risk; a key policy concern.

²⁹ FAO (2019). Freshwater small pelagic fish and their fisheries in the major African lakes and reservoirs in relation to food security and nutrition. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA0843EN>

³⁰ AfDB (2016). How to reverse the African propensity to import fish? Accessed from: <https://blogs.afdb.org/measuring-the-pulse-of-economic-transformation-in-west-africa/post/how-to-reverse-the-african-propensity-to-import-fish-16261>



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2.1.2.6 Poor policy formulation and implementation

Poor policy formulation and implementation and systemic issues in many countries are to a large extent the real problems and the root causes of most of the food sovereignty concerns facing Africa especially during the COVID-19 period.

Poor policy formulation: In some cases, food and economic policies are not a reflection of the needs of the smallholder farmers who are the majority of food producers. This is despite the existence of influential umbrella farmer associations which can proactively speak on their behalf during policy formulation processes. This includes associations such as East Africa Federation of Farmers (EAFF), Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), Network of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA), Maghrebian and North African Farmers Union (UMNAGRI) and Sub-Regional Platform of Farmers' Organizations in Central Africa (PROPAC). Public participation during review of policies is also low given in most cases even when open for the public to participate, most farmers do not even know such events are taking place, and where they do know, some think it is not their responsibility.

Poor policy implementation: Africa has a rich array of good policies, however, elites in positions of leadership deliberately ignoring good policy advice and choosing to divert public resources and development aid remains a problem. This includes insufficient financial and economic investments to actualize high potential programmes in the agricultural sector. As a result, resources meant for the sector's development never reach the would-be beneficiaries. A case example is the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Malabo Declaration of 2003 which recommended an investment of at least 10 percent of annual national budgets in the agricultural sector. However, to date, less than 10 out of 55 Africa states actually meet the 10 per cent target allocation to agriculture.

Lack of policy coherence: Sometimes new government regimes water down successful pilot programmes from former regimes which have potential for wider benefits if out-scaled, resulting in '**white elephants**' (uncompleted government projects). In some instances, it is a



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case of conflicting policies where say an environmental policy says no cultivating along riparian areas such as river bends while another policy in agriculture says there is need to maximize utilization of idle land including wetlands to increase food production.

2.1.2.7 Poor governance and corruption

Over reliance on food aid, loans and imports: As a result of poor governance and policies, Africa is still over reliant on food aid, loans and imports despite its potential to be food self-sufficient from its vast fertile lands. The excessive aid and loans to Africa may also be a problem by itself given most countries have always received development aid since their independence but still remain poor. Could it be an indication that development institutions and donor countries have created some donor dependency syndrome and chronic debt burdens among Africans? This is a salient question that advocates of inclusive sustainable solutions need to ask themselves. Poor governance is also indicated by Africa being a net importer (including food aid) of her staple food items like rice, maize, and wheat. The African Development Bank (AfDB) points out that, Africa's net food imports may triple by 2025, reaching over US \$110 billion³¹; this is likely to rise with the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 and ecological shocks on production systems. The recently-launched African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is expected to at least lower food imports from outside the continent, which may be an advantage to farmers from countries with a comparative advantage to produce essential food items consumed in the continent.

Corruption, (an indicator of poor governance mostly by the political elite) in Africa remains a concern in not only food sovereignty (SDG 2 - No Hunger) but also attainment of other SDGs given often reported cases of misuse of public resources including those meant for emergency response and investment in sustainable solutions. Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2020 shows with an average score of 32 out of a possible 100, Sub-Saharan Africa remains the lowest performing region, with most countries in the

³¹ AfDB (2016). Feed Africa Strategy for agricultural transformation in Africa 2016–2025. Accessed from https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/Feed_Africa-Strategy-En.pdf



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region scoring poorly in the perceived levels of public sector corruption³². The report singles out **Malawi** and **Zambia** as countries to watch given their significant decline of their CPI scores, an indication of worsened levels of corruption and poor governance. Select performance of some countries include Somalia (12), Democratic Republic of the Congo (18), Burundi (19), Comoros (21), Djibouti (27), Uganda (27), Malawi (30), Kenya (31), Eswatini (33), Zambia (33), Ethiopia (38), Tanzania (38) compared to developed countries like Denmark (88), Singapore (85), Germany (80) and United States (67). Seychelles (66) and Botswana (60) were the highest ranking in Sub-Saharan Africa and Africa at large.

Rural-urban migration: Africa's farm lands are based in rural areas where in most countries they lack good infrastructure such as roads to connect them to markets. Further, farming tends to be unprofitable given access to markets is hindered or most profit margins are derived by middlemen in agri-value chains. This has resulted in massive rural-urban migration in search of greener pastures. This aggravates the food demand while reducing the amount of food produced when farm workers shift to urban areas. This is also a reflection of poor policy formulation and implementation.

Lack of political good will: Most of the highlighted concerns are an indication of lack of political good will, a sign there is need for deliberate interventions by development partners to work with governments to change the status quo.

2.1.2.8 Weak disaster preparedness and response

Though for the last 60 years drought has been an almost annual phenomenon in East Africa, the 2017 drought is considered one of the most devastating, while for countries in Southern Africa including Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana and Namibia prolonged drought periods have over years had devastating impact on agricultural areas¹⁶. Every year, from November to May, Cyclones and storms affect countries on Africa's Southeastern Coast along the Indian Ocean; in particular Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius and

³² Transparency International (2021). Corruption Perception Index 2020. Accessed from: https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/CPI2020_Report_EN_0802-WEB-1_2021-02-08-103053.pdf



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Comoros; with storms estimated to account for about 35 percent of Africa's damages and losses¹⁶. These disasters mostly ravage the heart of Africa's economies, agriculture sector, particularly subsistence farming and nomadic pastoralism where in most cases the effects are evidenced by famine and hunger - a clear indication of declining food sovereignty with every disaster.

This comes at a time when several states have endorsed global policy frameworks to address disasters including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and also domesticated the policies including establishing disaster preparedness and response units. This includes National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR) mainly to address floods in Burkina Faso, National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU) to handle mainly droughts, fires, floods and diseases in Kenya; Disaster Risk Management Food Security Sector (DRMFSS) with a focus on drought and flood in Ethiopia; Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) to focus on floods and drought in Malawi; National Disaster Management Institute (INGC) to mainly handle floods in Mozambique; National Disaster Management Executive Committee (NDMEC) to respond to fires, earthquakes, floods and landslides in Rwanda; and National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) to address disasters such as droughts in Uganda.

However, despite the existence of policy and institutional frameworks with the probability of the disasters re-occurring being predictable and well known to the States, more and more people still suffer with each disaster. The disasters appear to catch different states by surprise and notwithstanding the response not being something to be proud of including always pleading for humanitarian help from development partners and to a small extent regional funds for disasters. A case example of weak response includes Kenya where almost every 2-3 years there is always a reported humanitarian crisis of draught and famine³³ often followed by a cycle of floods that affects the majority of the people in Northern Kenya. With the short recovery period, livelihood activities are constrained, especially pastoralism, resulting in both

³³ Institute for security studies (2011). The Cycle of Drought in Kenya a Looming Humanitarian Crisis. Accessed from: <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/the-cycle-of-drought-in-kenya-a-looming-humanitarian-crisis>



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the government and the media appealing for help from development partners and well-wishers. This is an indication of weak disaster preparedness and response.

2.1.2.9 Weak social protection mechanisms

Africa's Agenda 2063 recognizes social protection as an economic and social necessity; with the potential to reduce inequalities, enhance inclusivity and generate resilience in times of shocks in the race to attain sustainable development as envisioned in the SDGs. However, an Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report on social protection reveals less than 10 percent of Africa's population is covered by social insurance and much is yet to be done; where in Sub-Saharan Africa social assistance covers only 11 per cent of the poorest 20 percent, compared with 21 per cent in South Asia, 50 per cent in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and 58 per cent in Latin America³⁴. Sub-Saharan Africa's key social protection challenges include (i) reaching the poorest of the poorest, (ii) narrow statutory social security/ insurance schemes (focusing on those in the formal sector) despite most people working in the informal sector (iii) though there, public works programmes have not been able to bridge the unemployment gap, and (iv) coming up with smart programmes especially for informal residence city dwellers has been a challenge.

The bigger challenge remains on how to raise sufficient revenues to finance social protection programmes on a sustainable basis without over-burdening the taxpayers or creating donor dependency³⁴. To achieve this, governments and development partners will need to still grapple with emerging demographic trends (growing population including more poor people), COVID-19 pandemic and ecological concerns (climate change and locusts) that weaken the region's food sovereignty implying more food for poor people to protect. At the same time, people's trust and public support for public social security schemes is undermined by governance and administrative concerns with some of the existing schemes³⁵.

³⁴ OECD (2017). Social Protection in East Africa: Harnessing the Future, OECD Publishing, Paris. Accessed from: https://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/Social_protection_in_East_Africa.pdf

³⁵ ILO (2020). Social protection in Africa. Accessed from: <https://www.ilo.org/africa/areas-of-work/social-protection/lang-en/index.htm>



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According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), National experience from Namibia, Botswana and South Africa has demonstrated that social protection improves food sovereignty and governments can afford to provide to its poor with a minimum sustainable package of social benefits such as basic income transfers to meet food needs, access to basic health care and basic education³⁵. Other such programmes include the National Food Security Programme (NFSP) in Ethiopia, Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP) and cash transfers to the vulnerable in Kenya, and Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP) in Rwanda.

2.2 Case studies of existing interventions in Africa

Despite the existing challenges there have been several efforts put in place by different stakeholders to combat the adverse effects of the different crises affecting Africa's food sovereignty. To demonstrate some successful project/ policy interventions taken up by different stakeholders that can be replicated or improved, the following section presents **case studies of existing interventions from select countries** in Africa. The selection of case studies was informed by the review of existing challenges on 'Why is Africa still suffering from hunger?' hence the rationale to explore existing interventions. The section is divided into four parts; (i) Cash transfers and food relief, (ii) Enhancing smallholder farmers and pastoralists farm yields and incomes, (iii) Building climate and disaster resilience policy interventions, (iv) Interventions by JENA through its partner Jesuits Centers meant to empower producer traders (farmers) enhance productivity and incomes in different regions in Sub-Saharan Africa, and (v) Impacts of existing interventions. The last part of the section presents some of the lessons learnt in the process.



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2.2.1 Cash transfers and food relief interventions

FAO

In Ethiopia, FAO provided livestock protection to drought affected pastoralist communities. Over 3 million vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities were targeted in 2019³⁶. FAO's aim in Ethiopia has been to save livelihoods through livestock production support, unconditional cash transfers to vulnerable households and distribution of survival multi-nutrient feeds for livestock to boost resilience.

Sudan has been most affected in the region by both conflicts, COVID-19 and floods. In an effort to subvert the effects of floods in the country, FAO through a collaborative effort between the government of Belgium and the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA), released US \$ 500,000 to help ease the overwhelming effects of the pandemic and also tackle flood related outcomes on food security³⁷. About 1,700 households in Blue Nile, Darfur and Sennar were the beneficiaries of both COVID-19 protective kits and seasonal sensitive agricultural inputs to cope with floods, cash transfers and capacity building.

³⁶ FAO (2020). Desert Locust Crisis in the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/countries/detail/en/c/151593/>

³⁷ FAO (2020). The Sudan | FAO and Belgium assist food-insecure farming households impacted by COVID-19 and floods. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/fao-in-action/stories/stories-detail/en/c/1332377/>



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ActionAid

With about 850,000 persons in Somaliland in urgent need of food assistance, ActionAid supported around 725 families who were assisted with cash transfers to avert the hunger caused by severe drought in 2019. While in Kenya, 6,088 households were assisted and school feeding programs were initiated to keep children in school, on the other hand about 1,974 people in Ethiopia got financial aid for the same³⁸.

World Bank

The World Bank (WB) board of directors approved a US \$137.5 million grant to the International Development Association (IDA) to help Somali combat the multiple threats the country experienced in 2020 on food security including drought and the COVID-19 pandemic³⁹. The main objective of the project was to support the over 1.7 million people considered most vulnerable. This was done through cash transfers, control of the desert locust population and promotion of agricultural production³⁹.

³⁸ ActionAid (2021). Food crisis in East Africa 2017-2020. Accessed from: <https://www.actionaid.org.uk/our-work/emergencies-disasters-humanitarian-response/east-africa-crisis-facts-and-figures>

³⁹ World Bank (2020). World Bank Approves \$137.5 Million for Somalia's Response to COVID-19, Floods, and Drought. Press Release. Accessed from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/15/world-bank-approves-137-5-million-for-somalias-response-to-covid-19-floods-and-drought>



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2.2.2 Enhancing smallholder farmers and pastoralists farm yields and incomes

The U.S Government's and USAID Global Hunger and Food Security Initiatives

Since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, the US government through the Feed the Future Initiative has made available tractors to farmers in Rwanda who have experienced shortage of labor due lockdowns and directives aimed at combating COVID-19. They are also providing post-harvest and storage education to farmers to reduce postharvest losses⁴⁰.

The US government is also assisting African countries like Ghana to leverage the digital space so as to enhance food security during the pandemic. They are developing a digital payment system for farmers which is in line with minimized person-to-person interactions. In Ethiopia, the Feed the Future arranged for door-to-door delivery of poultry care products like feed and feeding stations to help the farmers raise their chickens. They also started collecting eggs from the farmers and so far, over 50,000 eggs have been sold across the region through this door-to-door initiative⁴⁰.

Through partnership with local banks in Mozambique, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Development Finance Corporation provides loan guarantees to these banks as the banks provide finances to companies that assist in getting food from rural area producers to consumers in the urban areas.

USAID and OXFAM

⁴⁰ Feed the Future (2020). Preventing a Food Crisis: Stories from the Field. Accessed from: <https://cg-281711fb-71ea-422c-b02c-ef79f539e9d2.s3.us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/uploads/2020/06/Feed-the-Future-COVID-19-Success-Stories.pdf>



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Through the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) aircrafts were contracted to spray pesticide on locusts, resulting in saving over 2.9 metric tons (MT) of crop loss at harvest. This led to an assurance of food security for 19.6 million people and 1.4 million pastoralist households⁴¹. In addition, 300 pest experts and scouts were trained and released to Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan as the US government topped up its contribution to this menace by US \$10 million⁴². OXFAM also developed a mobile GPS app that allows community volunteers to record data on local locust infestations which is then shared with government response teams⁴³.

The World Bank

The World Bank (WB) in Angola financed Commercial Agriculture Development project which has helped farmers cooperatives and agricultural SMEs to expand and improve operations during the COVID-19 pandemic so as to meet needs of the community⁴⁴.

In Kenya, the World Bank has partnered with 15 AgTech startups to leverage on technology to transform input delivery, soil testing, crop insurance and market linkages during the pandemic. This initiative is aimed at enabling the farmers to overcome temporary COVID-related constraints and ensure food security in the long run⁴⁴.

⁴¹ USAID (2021). East Africa–Desert Locust Crisis. Fact Sheet #2. Accessed from: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/02.01.2021_-_USAID-BHA_East_Africa_Desert_Locust_Crisis_Fact_Sheet_2.pdf

⁴² Refugees International (2020). Explainer: Locust Crisis Worsens Food Insecurity in East Africa. Blog Post. Accessed from: <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2020/3/18/explainer-locust-crisis-worsens-food-insecurity-in-east-africa>

⁴³ OXFAM (2020). New swarms of locusts threaten to increase hunger in East Africa reeling from floods and coronavirus: Flooding and Covid-19 restrictions create perfect conditions for locusts to multiply. Accessed from: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/new-swarms-locusts-threaten-increase-hunger-east-africa-reeling-floods-and>

⁴⁴ World Bank (2020). Responding to the Emerging Food Security Crisis. Accessed from: <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/775981606955884100/responding-to-the-emerging-food-security-crisis>



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In partnership with the Liberian government, the World Bank has fast tracked and activated the Contingency Emergency Response Component (about US \$7.5 million) through the Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P) to enable the government address food insecurity encountered by the most vulnerable, keep smallholder farmers at work and improve their production despite the pandemic⁴⁴.

Senegal received a US \$150 million World Bank Group's International Development Association (IDA) credit which is intended to increase exports of high-value crops like shelled groundnuts and horticultural products, and upsurge the productivity of dairy farming consequently mitigating the effects of the pandemic.

OXFAM

OXFAM's target to reach 14 million people affected by the pandemic was rolled out through its partnership with over 580 partners. The initiative has provided over 11,000 farmers with seeds, tools and US \$100 each to sustain them during the pandemic. The organization has managed to reach over 60 countries among which are African countries; including South Sudan, Mali, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso and Niger⁴⁵. OXFAM has achieved this by enhancing inclusivity through working with women farmers, local partners in beneficiary countries and global advocacy for policies that enhance inclusivity and sustainability of interventions to enhance food sovereignty. For example, in the West Africa region OXFAM is supporting an initiative that encourages enactment of better country specific policies to empower women farmers.

⁴⁵ OXFAM (2020). Fighting pandemic hunger. Accessed from: <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/stories/fighting-pandemic-hunger/>



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2.2.3 Building climate and disaster resilience policy interventions

FAO and World Bank

The Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP)

FAO set aside a US \$ 500 million project, The Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP), to assist in combating locust effects in Africa and the Middle East. The ELRP operates under the FAO set guidelines to ensure monitoring and control of the locust population, stopping the spread of the swarms, protecting and restoring the livelihoods of locust affected communities while building capacity to ensure proper response in the future⁴⁶. The objective of the ELRP project was to ensure food security in these regions by putting in place anticipatory action⁴⁷.

Through the Djibouti Locust Response Project, US \$ 6 million was approved for the mitigation of locust adverse effects. The focus regions were Arta, Dikhil, Ali-Sabieh, Tadjourah and Obock where the locust invasion was adverse. Cash transfers to affected households, distribution of agricultural inputs, livestock purchase and distribution were among the practical initiatives taken by the government through this project. Other ways of combating the effects of locust that were initiated in Djibouti were training of personnel to ensure better preparedness in the future creating community awareness on locust effects and how to recover and be resilient⁴⁸.

⁴⁶ World Bank (2020). World Bank Announces \$500 Million to Fight Locusts, Preserve Food Security and Protect Livelihoods: Emergency Financing for Locust Affected Countries will help people recover from losses. Press Release. Accessed from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/21/world-bank-announces-500-million-to-fight-locusts-preserve-food-security-and-protect-livelihoods#:~:text=The%20Emergency%20Locust%20Response%20Program,worst%20locust%20upsurges%20in%20decades>.

⁴⁷ FAO (2020). Desert Locust Upsurge: Global Response Plan, January–December 2020 - Appeal for rapid response and anticipatory action. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca9249en/CA9249EN.pdf>

⁴⁸ World Bank (2020). US\$6.6 Million to Help Djibouti Respond to the Threat Posed by the Locust Outbreak. Press Release. Accessed from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/21/us6-million-to-help-djibouti-respond-to-the-threat-posed-by-the-locust-outbreak>



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US \$ 63 million was approved for Ethiopia through the same project to provide fertilizers and seed to over 150,000 farmers and provide fodder to over 113,000 pastoralist households⁴⁹. In Kenya, US \$43 million was approved to provide 70,000 pastoralists and 20,000 farmers relief from the locust effects. As a result, 56 swarms of locust have been mitigated through the project⁵⁰.

In the ongoing FAO's Desert Locust Response Plan, the following has been achieved: Over 2 million ha surveyed and 0.902 million ha treated so far, of which 0.4 million ha were in East Africa; 0.834 million litres of pesticide, 12,675 kg of bio-pesticide procured by FAO; 5,370 handheld sprayers and knapsack sprayers are operational, with 750 delivered by FAO. An additional 1,817 handheld and knapsack sprayers are being procured by FAO; 25 fixed-wing airplanes are currently operational across the ten locust affected countries of which five are contracted by FAO⁵¹. These combined actions have greatly reduced the swarm of locusts in the region with anticipation to combat the breeding swarm effectively. In collaboration with the government, FAO has also enabled Ethiopia to control the fall armyworm plant pest to avoid crop losses.

African Union

The African Union (AU) through the African Risk Capacity Insurance company (ARC ltd) gave a US \$ 213 million to the government of Madagascar in 2020 which was aimed at assisting the vulnerable population avert drought effects. This was as a result of drought insurance that the country had taken with the support of African Development

⁴⁹ World Bank (2020). World Bank Group Provides Emergency Support to Help Ethiopia Manage the Threat Posed by the Desert Locust. Press Release. Accessed from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/21/world-bank-group-provides-emergency-support-to-help-ethiopia-manage-the-threat-posed-by-the-desert-locust>

⁵⁰ World Bank (2020). World Bank Approves \$43 Million Emergency Financing to Support Kenya's Desert Locust Response. Press Release. Accessed from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/21/world-bank-approves-43-million-emergency-financing-to-support-kenyas-desert-locust-response>

⁵¹ FAO (2020). Desert locust crisis. Accessed from: <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/crisis/desertlocust/intro/en/>



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Bank (AfDB)⁵². About 600,000 vulnerable people were targeted for financial aid and hence avert the negative effects of drought in the region⁵².

2.2.4 Interventions by JENA through its partner Jesuits Centers: Success stories

Case study 1:

Promoting agroecology towards strengthening the resilience of smallholder food producers, KATC Lusaka, Zambia

Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre (KATC), Lusaka, Zambia offers a model where it trains farmers, government agricultural extension staff, health workers, teachers and NGOs field staff on agroecology. Following past noticeable successes, the institution has received support from the government and development institutions like FAO's projects and top leadership. This includes requests to train government extension staff and farmers on agro-ecological agriculture including making on-farm organic fertilizers and manure/compost in the country and even beyond to neighbouring countries such as Malawi and Zimbabwe. This model's key successes include having reached over 15,000 trainees in over its 30 years of operation and noticeable high and sustainable production of lands under agroecology. Some challenges the institution has faced is in the uptake of organic manure where in the event government subsidizes synthetic fertilizer the prices can go down such that farmers opt for it. In the race towards achieving food sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Africa amid COVID-19 and ecological challenges like climate change, there is need to out-scale such capacity building efforts. This includes lobbying for governments to allocate resources to support capacity building on ecological agriculture and subsidize production of organic manure. Overall, the model is an indication that the church and other development institutions need to build on interventions that have government support, because if it becomes government policy then it will have a much better chance of success.

Photo: Left - Practical training on manure handling and compost making & Right - A lead farmer explaining the concept of agroforestry nursery management by KATC

(Information source credits,

Paul Desmarais S. J. & Fr. Fratern Masawe, KATC Zambia)

⁵² African Union (2020). Madagascar receives USD 2.13 million from African Risk Capacity Insurance Company Limited for Drought Response. Press Release. Accessed from: <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20200703/madagascar-receives-usd-213-million-african-risk-capacity-insurance-company>



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Case study 2:

Remodeling the productivity and entrepreneurial potential of small livestock among smallholder farmers – A case of chicken, FSAV Loyola University, Congo

Smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa remain some of the most optimistic and hardworking people in the world, however, they remain disadvantaged due to skills gap and limited resources which limit their potential to feed for themselves and the world at large. A case example is most households in rural areas of Congo who rear chicken at least for subsistence consumption (eggs and meat), but sit on the potential to commercialize it and tap into a huge local market such as in Kinshasa. This is attributed to limited resources to buy feeds and chicks. Most day-old chicks sold in Kinshasa-Congo, a city of more than 15 million people, are imported; 'what a gold mine'. Covid-19 came along and taught us a hard lesson: no air travel, no chicks! Not only did this situation affect farmers' work, but also resulted in shortage of chicken, eggs and meat in the market. To counter this situation while expressing care for poor smallholder farmers, Faculty of Agro-veterinary Sciences (FSAV), Loyola University of Congo set up a project of installing a 19,200 hatching eggs incubator, logistics for getting hatching eggs and supporting locally made mills for feed production coupled with trainings on commercial chicken rearing. With resources the project holds the potential to be out-scaled and even replicated in other regions. Sustainability is foreseen when with better revenues the beneficiary farmers can afford their own incubators and feed milling machines overtime.

3

Photo: Left - Eggs are being placed in an incubator & Right - Locally made mill for feed production, by FSAV

Loyola University of Congo

(Information source credits,

Fr. Jean Mboma M, FSAV Congo)



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Case study 3:

Touching lives and empowering vulnerable communities in rural areas to diversify their livelihoods through water, sanitation and food processing initiatives, Silveira House projects - Zimbabwe

Silveira House currently runs several projects across the Southern Africa region, mainly Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. Between May 2019 and March 2020, following massive destruction by Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe; Silveira House took a leading role in supporting the affected with improved access to safe water, access to sanitation facilities and knowledge on good health and hygiene practices. This saw a total of 8 boreholes drilled in select schools and Tongogara Refugee Camp, and rehabilitation of 7 boreholes and repair 19. The efforts also entailed training of 34 Water Point Management Committees to facilitate community-based management and sustainability with close collaboration with government agencies. On enhancing access to sanitation facilities, the project constructed 355 household latrines and rehabilitated of 131 others. Finally, on hygiene promotion the project conducted 3 refresher training courses for 42 Village Health Workers (VHWs) on Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) while 600 households benefited from the distribution of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) kits. In total, 3012 families benefited from the project and now have access to water, sanitation facilities and practice better hygiene. Silveira House has also over time empowered vulnerable communities in rural areas to diversify their livelihoods enhance through capacity building in food value addition initiatives such as baking, maize shellers, setting up of mills (grain milling), solar drying of horticultural products and fruit juice making. The mentioned efforts and project outputs are an indication of not only the catastrophic nature Cyclone Idai but also the pressing water and social amenities needs that poor communities in Sub-Saharan Africa face including the need for livelihoods diversification – a gap that can be filled if development partners act now, rather than later.

*Photo: Left – Teachers and community members at Risutu Valley Primary School test fresh and clean water (SH);
Right: Silveira House Rukau Food Processing Group, 2020*

(Information source credits,

Fr. Anold Moyo S.J, Silveira House, Jesuit Social Justice and Development Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe)



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Case study 4:

Kitchen gardening as an alternative source of livelihood and food: A case of Ms. Anne Kurraru living in Kajiado County, Kenya. Intervention by: Jesuit Hakimani Centre (JHC)

Before Hakimani's Intervention

Anne Kurraru is a 35-year-old single mother of four and the sole breadwinner for her family. Before Hakimani's intervention, she worked as a shopkeeper at a shop located at the heart of Saikeri shopping centre, Kajiado County, Kenya which is 10 km away from her home. She traverses by foot through a thicket that is between her home and place of work. She is paid a total amount of KES 3,000 (eqv. US \$ 30) per month that goes into sustaining her household needs. Most of the time, her family's main meal is *ugali* (maize flour meal) and milk or rice and milk. Milk remains a key food item given her family is young.

During Hakimani's Intervention

Anne was recruited as one of the members that would benefit from Hakimani's kitchen gardening programme by the senior chief in Saikeri area. Because of the nature of the project (involves rigorous one day training) her daughter stepped in for her anytime she was held up during the training. Kitchen gardening appeared an uphill task since water shortage is a perennial problem in Saikeri. During the training, emphasis was put on water re-usage strategies. After the third training on kitchen gardening using sacks, Anne mounted 20 sacks around her house. From her monthly salary she acquired seedlings worth KES 800 (eqv. US \$ 8) to plant in her sacks. At the time, she mobilized her 2 friends to engage in the same and they each planted a sack.

She manages to water all the sacks, because anytime she washes her dishes, clothes and mops her house, she collects the used water together and preserves it using ash. After a few hours, the dirt settles down whilst the clean water floats. She slowly drains the clean water and uses it to water her garden (sacks).

As of late February 2021, Anne had successfully planted in 50 sacks and supplies vegetables to her neighbors at a small price. This is able to meet a family basic financial needs including having a balanced diet for her children. She says "Hakimani was sent to this village by God for me specifically". Anne also

Pictured above (from left) is JHC's staff practically training Anne and other beneficiaries on sack kitchen gardening. Anne grew from a single sack to 50 sacks (In a span of 6 months). She also went a step further to plant beans in a small space near her house (Right).

(Information source credits, Ms. Yvone Kuntai, Jesuit Hakimani Centre



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Effectiveness of existing interventions

When a crisis affecting people’s food sovereignty status occurs, humanitarian responses can be classified into 3 phases: that is the Critical Period - focuses on humanitarian assistance to save lives; Early Recovery Period; and Recovery Period as shown in Table 1⁵³.

Table 1: Phases humanitarian response to food crisis

0 shock months	+2	+12 months	Up to 24 months
Critical Period	Early Recovery Period		Recovery Period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priority: Food security and livelihood assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priority: Restoring livelihoods 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priority: Sustainable livelihood and risk reduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highest needs ● Most urgent period ● Chaotic ● Less organized and coordinated ● Information gathering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Critical period passed ● Needs still high ● Response urgent but more organized ● Better information about impact of disaster ● Better informed and coordinated 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developing resilient livelihoods ● Focus on risk reduction ● Programmes to include disaster risk reduction strategies ● Increase livelihood diversification

Adopted from: HelpAge International (2012)⁵³.

⁵³ HelpAge International (2012). Food security and livelihoods interventions for older people in emergencies. Accessed from: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Livelihoods-FINAL.pdf>



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While this report does not analyze the impact of existing interventions; informed by the adopted food crisis response framework (Table 1), it is evident past interventions by development partners and governments, as highlighted in section 2.2 of this report, have achieved at least one if not all of the critical period, early recovery period and recovery period expected outcomes.

Based on the case studies in this report; the church through Jesuits centers in Africa has invested in and delivered programmes and projects that have seen communities build resilience to food in-sovereignty when crisis strikes. This includes an immediate food provision to the people affected by crises like floods and drought, restoration of livelihoods through supporting them to create alternative sources of livelihoods and a reduction of dependence on humanitarian aid. A case example is Silveira House project on improved access to safe water and sanitation facilities when Cyclone Idai Zimbabwe meets the early recovery phase outcomes. Another example is Faculty of Agro-veterinary Sciences (FSAV), Loyola University of Congo set up a project to support production and marketing activities of chicken farmers as a coping mechanism to the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 on sources of livelihood, an intervention that also meets the early recovery phase outcomes. Similar initiatives are the U.S Government's and USAID Global Hunger and Food Security Initiatives where during the pandemic they created digital payment systems and models for door-to-door delivery of poultry products in Ethiopia, and the one by OXFAM providing 11,000 farmers in select countries with seeds, tools and US \$100 each to sustain them during the pandemic. The African Union (AU) through the African Risk Capacity Insurance company (ARC Ltd) insurance initiative of US \$ 213 million for 600,000 vulnerable populations in Madagascar to cope with drought in 2020 to a large extent only meets the Critical Period phase outcomes.

Overall, the review reveals that most interventions rarely go beyond the Early Recovery Period (+12 months) phase an indication development partners and governments need to invest more in policies and programmes that seek to offer sustainable long-lasting solutions to calamities like droughts and floods that affect Africa's Food Sovereignty.



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2.2.5 Lessons learnt from existing interventions (case studies)

Some of the lessons drawn from the review of existing interventions include;

- i. **Use of early warning mechanisms to avert challenges to food sovereignty.** This has been evident with FAO's leading role in early warning and interventions to avert the locust crisis in the horn of Africa. Similar approaches can be applied in drought and floods which also do not suddenly occur hence early preparedness could save crop and livestock losses.
- ii. **Technology and innovation to compliment food sovereignty initiatives has proven useful especially in this COVID-19 era.** This includes initiatives such as supporting digital payment systems for farmers supported by the US government in Ghana and World Bank partnering with 15 AgTech startups to leverage on technology to transform input delivery in Kenya. Another example is the OXFAM developed mobile GPS app that allows community volunteers to record data on local locust infestations which is then shared with government response teams.
- iii. **Collaborations and partnerships benefit more people with better interventions.** Governments, development institutions and other stakeholders' collaboration has proven useful and more effective as food in-sovereignty affects the entire population without discrimination. Large projects and policy changes that are considered impactful have been as a result of multi-stakeholder collaboration. Case examples include the Emergency Locust Response Program (ELRP), to assist in combating locust effects in Africa and the Middle East, an initiative of FAO and the World Bank in collaboration with governments of affected countries.
- iv. **Capacity building vulnerable/ affected persons and communities;** several initiatives included capacity building and training especially in the study of locust population growth and use of technology or resilient agricultural inputs. This can be replicated to combat other crises like floods, drought and COVID-19 to ensure a snowballing effect to combat future threats to food sovereignty. A case example is the



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church interventions through institutions such as Silveira House food processing projects Zimbabwe and agroecology capacity building by Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre (KATC) in Lusaka, Zambia.

- v. **There is a need for African countries to be insured against the threats of food sovereignty.** A case example is what Madagascar did by taking drought insurance that saw 600,000 vulnerable population benefit from US \$ 213 million insurance package through AfDB and African Risk Capacity Insurance company (ARC ltd).

The envisioned food sovereign Sub-Saharan Africa

The GHI scores, COVID-19, locust, drought and floods effects on food sovereignty and poverty are not just numbers and reports, but an **alarming call for action** to save the affected sons and daughters of Africa. This is by **collaboratively** out-scaling existing **interventions** while coming up with new ones to **reach more people faster** from **farm to fork**. Therefore, there is need to build back better through:

1. Rethinking food and economic policy formulation in Africa
2. Enhancing policy implementation including collaborative advocacy and sustainable programmes/projects
3. Multi-stakeholder collaboration to not only identify salient problems, but deliver better more impactful programmes

With the existing evidence of a looming food sovereignty crisis, the contemporary Jesuit Justice Ecology Network of Africa (JENA) mission, an institution that positions itself in food sovereignty and ecological agriculture concerns in Sub-Saharan Africa, needs to establish some more plausible insights on practical interventions from and for stakeholders. As such, the change begins with development partners and governments collaboratively:

1. **Seeing** the situation;
2. **Judging** it; and



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3. **Acting now to enhance the farm to fork food chain in an effort to build more resilient food systems** in Sub-Saharan Africa.

To achieve this, the report has presented country- or region-specific contexts, some existing policies and programmes and later under the way forward section presents some concrete integrated approaches and multi-stakeholder interventions.

3.1 Looking ahead – gains for collaborating stakeholders

It is evident that different governments in collaboration with regional and international development partners have made strides in the journey to attain food sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Africa. Looking ahead, a multi-agency integrated approach to find practical solutions and out-scale relevant existing interventions, will not only contribute to better food sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Africa but also give an opportunity for different development partners to join forces and invest their resources for a worthy course; giving them value for their investments while touching lives. This includes contributing to creating thriving communities, enhancing gender equality, preventing conflict, and building and sustaining peace among vulnerable food poor households and communities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

There needs to be, however, sufficient evidence-based recommendations, support, enabling environments and long-term strategies for building more resilient food systems at local community, national and regional levels. This is a gap that this report sought to fill through reviewing the current situation in Sub-Saharan Africa to inform the anticipated future.

4.0 Conclusion and next steps

4.1 Conclusion

Food sovereignty remains a pertinent issue in Sub-Saharan Africa that has been aggravated by COVID-19. The case report reveals there are valid concerns in Sub-Saharan Africa that have widening income inequality and dulled the dream of being food sovereignty over the years. Key among them being: Global systemic issues such as geopolitics of global food trade and economic policy prescriptions; High levels of post-harvest losses along food supply chains;



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Climate change related ecological concerns such as drought, floods, Locusts and Fall Armyworm; and Weak food and climate policy environment COVID-19 effects.

Alarming, responses to the food sovereignty challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa have to date not been efficient and effective to a large extent. As such, the review recognizes the urgent need for better timely interventions to attain food sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Africa; this includes timely policy support to the Agriculture sector and the need to ensure that a particular policy direction is anchored on evidence. This also includes learning from international and continental best practices as evidence.

In addition, some solutions to the identified issues have already been identified even in other reports, some implemented while others just piloted in different programmes then stopped. Therefore, stakeholders need to ask themselves why some of the solutions are not being taken up by the producer-traders, development partners and some governments despite them having worked elsewhere. In addition, there is a need to build a better case to change the story through multi-stakeholder collaboration to deliver both short-term (such as, food or cash aid) and long-term solutions.

Next steps, to build back better



Having understood the status of food sovereignty in Sub-Saharan Africa, existing interventions and plausible benefits of multi-stakeholder collaboration, there is a clear indication of the need to shift from business as usual to inform attainment of the aspirated future. This is

through sustainably and inclusively building a more food sovereign Sub-Saharan Africa.



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As such, the current ecological disasters and COVID-19 present not only challenges but opportunities to think and act better for a sustainable better future. The following are plausible next steps to build back better including collaborative implementation of capacity building, advocacy and research programmes.

- **Capacity building for producer traders such as farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk to:**

- Reduce post-harvest losses, particularly, mostly on-farm and in open food markets while supporting market linkages to move food from surplus areas to deficit areas;
- Make ecological agriculture work better for food sovereignty and a sustainable planet: Promote inclusive ecological agriculture through capacity building of food producers including smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk to take up climate-smart practices such as minimal use of agro-chemicals and more agro-forestry.

Capacity building efforts can be championed by Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Government allied institutions

- **Advocacy:** - While leading from the front, Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) needs to support global and regional advocacy for:

- Interventions that offer long-term, sustainable, equitable and impactful development solutions, as opposed to short-term food or cash transfers; while appreciating support offered so far. This is with the recognition that Africa has good climates, arable soils, sufficient water and workforce.
- A conducive better implemented food and climate policy environment. This includes holding their governments accountable to deliver other already formulated food and climate policies. For example, taking advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and advocate for a policy shift from exporting raw agro-products (no value addition) from Africa which fetch low prices in international markets with huge imports of even essential food items like maize, rice and fish which can be produced with the region;
- Producer traders, especially farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk, to take up ecological agriculture practices that hold the potential to build resilience to the effects of climate change;
- Security of land tenure for peasant farmers and other marginalized groups alongside adopting integrated land use planning;



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- Building a movement and people power: to act in calling their governments to develop and implement food and climate change policies that support sustainable agriculture practices.
- **Establish More robust inclusive social protection programmes for resilience.** States (governments) in Africa need to establish strong social protection that takes care of the poor, marginalized and working population including those in the informal sector. While resources are scarce, if existing resources are properly utilized then more would be available for social protection programmes. In addition, more collaboration with development partners supporting such programmes is needed to avoid duplication of efforts could help bridge the resource gap.
- **Promote climate research** while incorporating interventions to strengthen the resilience of food producers including small scale farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk. These efforts can be collaboratively delivered by public and private research institutions including academic institutions.
- **Strengthen international and regional collaborations** Strengthen international and regional collaborations for bigger more impactful programmes within JENA network and like-minded institutions such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), OXFAM, ActionAid, AfDB, European Union (EU), the World Bank and foundations like Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Red Cross. This will be done in collaboration with other Church allied institutions like the Vatican, Caritas Africa and International Cooperation for Development Solidarity (CIDSE) – [Group of Catholic NGOs in Europe] and the Catholic Bishops Conferences.