

## THE RULE OF LAW AND FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN THE SAHEL: ADDRESSING THE CONFLICT-CLIMATE-FOOD SECURITY NEXUS

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Climate change, violence, and negative economic outlook, exacerbated by COVID-19, are driving to higher levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel region, particularly in conflict-affected areas. It is estimated that nearly 25 million people are facing acute food insecurity and need assistance and protection (5 million people more than 2020, according to OCHA).<sup>1</sup>

In the Sahel countries, the success of strategies and actions to transform food systems, depends on their ability to grapple with the fragile political, socio-economic and environmental context. Inclusive and participatory decision-making processes, sound and coherent policy and legal frameworks, accountable, non-discriminatory, and effective institutions, access to justice and legal empowerment are crucial elements of the rule of law that should anchor food systems transformation towards the achievement of Agenda 2030.

Built on the idea that the absence of response to crime and conflict - such as banditry, cattle theft, attacks on roads and markets, as well as illegal detention and other injustices - contributes to the deterioration of State legitimacy, IDLO's intervention in the Sahel aims at strengthening the rule of law and peaceful settlement of disputes. Intended to promote the rights of justice seekers and access to justice, IDLO supports consultation frameworks gathering judicial actors at the local level to improve the efficiency and the quality of the criminal justice system and ensure justice is delivered in a fair and timely manner.

This innovative approach has contributed to:

- Strengthen social cohesion and build trust of populations through a better collaboration between judicial institutions, traditional authorities and civil society for an inclusive, peaceful and sustainable local development;
- Improve the quality of justice so that it is accessible to citizens, people-centered and respectful of human rights, and;
- Promote efficient and transparent institutions that are responsive to the specific needs of each local context.

### THE DIALOGUE

In line with the seven principles of engagement of the FSS<sup>2</sup>, recognizing the complexity of food systems and that urgent action is required, IDLO will convene an Independent Dialogue to discuss how holistic, participatory and inclusive platforms, such as but not limited to the CCR, can strengthen food systems governance and, in particular justice, equal participation, transparency, trust and security for the sustainable and peaceful transformation of food systems, that enhance food security and nutrition in the Sahel.

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<sup>1</sup> Global Network Against Food Crises, 2021. Global Report on Food Crises.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/vision-principles>

The Dialogue “**The Rule of Law and Food Systems Transformation in The Sahel: Addressing the conflict-climate-food security nexus**” will explore how current rule of law and governance gaps in the Sahel undermine efforts to enhance nutrition and fuel the root causes of food insecurity, in light of the most pressing constraints in the region: climate change, access to land and other natural resources, and conflicts. These include, for instance, the limited success of State and traditional institutions in ensuring equal access to land and other natural resources and providing effective and accessible dispute resolution pathways, with tensions escalating into violent conflict.

Three breakout sessions will serve to discuss main challenges and find solutions on:

- Rights to land, conflict and food insecurity in the Sahel;
- Access to justice and the right to adequate food;
- Impacts of climate change on food security and malnutrition: a climate justice perspective.

IDLO is convening a diverse, multi-stakeholders and inclusive Independent Dialogue, bringing together a diverse range of actors operating in the region at multiple levels, including civil society, women and youth, State and customary authorities, academia, multi-lateral organizations and across different sectors, such as agriculture, health, security, climate change, natural resource management.

#### OBJECTIVES

The Dialogue aims to:

- Identify ongoing rule of law initiatives to face main challenges affecting food systems and security in the Sahel, mainly land and soil degradation, low agriculture productivity, high prices, low employment opportunities, banditry, cattle theft, attacks on roads and markets, as well as illegal detention and other injustices committed by state agents.
- Highlight priority areas, concrete actions and alliances for practitioners and stakeholders in the region to promote and strengthen a rule of law-based governance of food systems.
- Explore how the criminal justice consultation frameworks can be used as a platform to enhance coherence among policies, laws and regulations related to food systems and to strengthen institutional capacities for the effective, accountable, transparent and just implementation.

Emphasis will be put on efforts directed at policy and legal reforms, institutional capacity development, inclusive decision-making, and community empowerment.

#### PANELISTS

- **Ms Bouaré Bintou Founé Samaké**, Executive Director, WILDAF- Mali & Former Minister of Women
- **Ms Tata Toure Diallo**, President, Conseil Régional de la Société Civile de la Région de Mopti
- **Dr Sekeyoba Léopold Nanema**, Executive Secretary, Conseil National de Sécurité Alimentaire (SE-CNSA) - Ministry of Agriculture of Burkina Faso
- **Mr. Aboubacar Tidjani Alou**, Permanent Secretary, Collectif des Associations pour la Promotion de l'Élevage au Niger
- **Mr. Saidou Oua**, Former Minister of Agriculture, Niger

#### Alternatives:

- **Mohamed Maouloud Najm**, Director, Administration de la Justice et du Sceau
- **Valérie Edwige Kaboré**, Commissioner, National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH) - Burkina Faso

**Curator.** **Mr. Ousmane Seye**. IDLO Regional Manager, Sahel.