

Technical Reference Manual

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Food security and livelihood



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I. Introduction



The Technical Reference Manual of the organization comes within the scope of continuation of the **Statutes of the Organization** and its **Charter** in order to provide a more comprehensive framework of operational reference.

This document also allows us to put our principles of response into perspective in order to do the following:

- Improve the quality of our programmes.
- Formalize an account of our current practices and propose a framework of discussion to change and adapt them to the evolving needs of humanitarian environment.

→ Mission statement

The field of response of the organization is defined in Article 1 of the Charter:

"Solidarités International has a mission to bring humanitarian aid and act in solidarity with communities threatened by political, ethnic, and economic oppression, war, or other forms of injustice."

To complement the nine articles of the Charter, Solidarités International teams are responsible for ensuring that the projects implemented in the field are coherent with the fundamental humanitarian principles as set forth by International Humanitarian Law¹, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, and the "Responsibility to Protect"² of the United Nations.

→ Intervention principles

Above all, the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence are inherent in all actions.

All projects should be guided by these four principles:

- **Humanity**, meaning the centrality of saving human lives and alleviating suffering wherever it is found.
- **Impartiality**, meaning the implementation of actions solely on the basis of need, without discrimination between or within affected populations.
- **Neutrality**, meaning that humanitarian action must not favor any side in an armed conflict or other dispute where such action is carried out.
- **Independence**, meaning the autonomy of humanitarian objectives from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

The objectives of humanitarian action are to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of man-made crises and natural disasters, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations. For Solidarités International, humanitarian action includes the provision of food, water and sanitation, shelter and other items of assistance for the benefit of affected people to save live and contribute to the protection of their livelihoods.

¹ Especially the Geneva Convention and its additional protocols (1977).

² Resolution 60/1 of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Solidarités International teams are committed to providing pertinent and efficient aid, which is adapted to the context and the recipients for a maximum effect.

Each project is based on a comprehensive analysis of the situation in preparation for action (assessment). If the speed of the aid is critically essential, this initial phase can be shortened, but in any case, it must be deepened once the situation is stable.

Implicitly, these principles bring about coordination with other aid participants, as much from a geographical perspective as a sectorial one. It is understood that this coordination must not be carried out to the detriment of the principle of independence and neutrality.

Whenever possible, Solidarités International teams commit to drawing on the lessons from their actions by carrying out evaluations. The follow-up of the projects and evaluations of the responses guarantee quality, pertinence, and capitalization of experience.

In any case, Solidarités International should adjust the deployment of its projects in relation to the security conditions for its teams.

Finally, the "do no harm" principle constitutes a minimum demand and will be systematically considered by the teams first as a priority, not only in relation to human aspects, but also environmental ones.

Three scopes of expertise

- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**
- **Food Security / livelihood**
- **Emergency Rehabilitation**

This document will only cover WASH and Food security / livelihood.

II. Common general principles



→ Context of intervention

INTERVENTION'S OBJECTIVES

- **Save lives**
- **Protect livelihoods and ways of living**
- **Preserve the dignity of people and their ability to make choices**

The principles of response of Article 1 of the Charter establish that Solidarités International intervenes in **crisis situations** like conflicts, population displacements, famine, epidemics, natural catastrophes, economic crises, active discrimination, etc; and leads the **way out of the crisis** to help the **most vulnerable** to overcome a difficult period.

Solidarités international responds during the peak of the crisis (emergency response) and/or after (rehabilitation and recovery programmes).

Solidarités International vocation is to

- (i) prevent and respond to water borne diseases,
- (ii) provide water of a good quality and in sufficient quantity to the most vulnerable population,
- (iii) Increase food security and secure livelihoods of the vulnerable population.

In all cases, Solidarités International programmes aim to allow the beneficiaries to meet their basic needs and develop and sustain their livelihoods as soon as possible.

Generally speaking, the following are the criteria which initiate a Solidarités International' response:

- The lives and/or health of the population is threatened
- The local authorities cannot meet the vital needs of the population and aid is insufficient
- The crisis or succession of crisis negatively affects the coping strategies put in place of the communities to the point that the sustainability of their livelihoods is threatened.

Recently there has been a gradual shift in the approach of Solidarités International; from short-term emergency interventions to medium to long term operations. Solidarités International 'intervention intends to go beyond the traditional emergency/relief approach in addressing the roots of vulnerability. In order to broaden its operational strategy and have a more comprehensive approach Solidarités International uses the livelihood framework³ to address food security issues and increase DRR intervention in the coming years.

Livelihood is about the ways and means of 'making a living'. The most widely accepted definition of livelihood stems from the work of Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway: *"A livelihood comprises the*

³ According to P.H. Barret « Thinking about food security has advanced from a first generation focus on aggregate food availability – the supply side – through a second generation emphasizing individual- and household-level access to food – introducing the demand side – toward a nascent third generation conceptualization that places food security in a broader framework of individual behavior in the face of uncertainty, irreversibilities, and binding constraints on choice ».

capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long-term”

Livelihood deals with people, their resources and what they do with these. Livelihoods essentially revolve around resources (such as land, crops, seeds, labour, knowledge, cattle, money, social relationships, and so on), but these resources cannot be disconnected from the issues and problems of access and changing political, economic and socio-cultural circumstances.

In terms of food-security assessments, a livelihoods approach involves assessing the longer-term risks to livelihoods, as well as short-term nutritional or life-threatening risks.

Solidarités International recognizes that **disasters exacerbate poverty and hunger by destroying housing, crops, food stock, savings and infrastructure**. Disasters further marginalize the poor by destroying their productive assets and resulting in loss of income from regular activities.

In the above context, Solidarités International is strongly committed to increase the DRR focus of its intervention in order to maximize and protect programme impacts.

KEY CONCEPTS

- **VULNERABILITY:** According to the FAO, the degree of vulnerability for an individual, a home, or a group of people, is determined by the exposure to risk factors and the capacity to face the crisis situations and overcome them permanently.
- **HAZARD:** Threatening event or the probability of occurrence of a potentially damaging phenomena within a given time period and area” (Downing et al, 2001)
- **RISKS:** The combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences. The probability of harmful consequences, or expected losses (deaths, injuries, property, livelihoods, economic activity disrupted or environment damaged) resulting from interactions between natural or human-induced hazards and vulnerable conditions.

$$\Rightarrow RISK = Hazard \times Vulnerability$$

- **RESILIENCE** is the capacity of an individual or a group to confront a crisis and sustainably recover from a shock.
- **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION** “The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events” (UNISDR, 2009).

III. Water, sanitation and hygiene framework



Today, nearly one billion people do not have access to a supply system of drinking water, and 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation⁴ (about 40% of the world population).

These last few years, access to water has been more and more considered as a “right” and not only as a “crucial need”. This right has been implicitly recognized as a Human right within many official statements such as UN resolutions. In 2002, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted the General Comments 15 related to the “Right to water”, establishing it thus as a fundamental human right : *“The human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses. An adequate amount of safe water is necessary to prevent death from dehydration, to reduce the risk of water-related disease and to provide for consumption, cooking, personal and domestic hygienic requirements.”*

In 2000, UN Member States adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration for halving extreme poverty before 2015. Through the Millennium Goal 7.C, the international community decided to *“halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”*. This declaration has been amended in Johannesburg in 2002 to add sanitation as a part of the implementing programme.

In 2008, we already know that some of the Millennium goals will not be achieved on time, especially goals related to sanitation. Many countries are late regarding these goals, mainly in sub-Saharan area, because of a lack of resources, means (and political willingness?) to implement relevant programmes for reaching the goals.

This incapability of government to tackle the needs is sometimes linked to protracted crisis situation due to conflicts, or natural disasters. Climate change has therefore to be considered as a main issue regarding the achievement of the Millennium goals and Solidarités International is willing to strengthen its capacities in terms of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), especially in Asia.

The lack of infrastructure of water and supply has serious consequences on the health of the populations, especially children. The diseases caused by the consumption of unsanitary water, and bad hygiene and sanitation (including vector-borne diseases), constitute the leading cause of mortality in the world. It is estimated that 8 million⁵ people die of diseases related to water (diarrhea, fever, typhoid, intestinal worms, cholera, dengue fever, malaria, dysentery, schistosomiasis). As a result, thousands of children die every day of diarrhea-related diseases and thousands of others, malaria.

The action of Solidarités International comes within the scope of these humanitarian situations, of an abrupt break or protracted crisis, in order to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases and to prevent the risks of an epidemic in the most vulnerable populations and those most exposed to sanitary risks.

⁴ “Millennium Development Goals Report 2008,” ed. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), August 2008.

⁵ Michel Camdessus, L’eau (Éditions Robert Laffort, 2004).

In order to do this, Solidarités International implements programmes aiming to improve access to water, sanitation, promote hygienic practices and to lead communities in the maintenance of infrastructure and the continuation of sensitization.

Apart from the impact on public health, access to basic services, such as water and sanitation, is essential to the respect of human dignity and contributes to improving the living conditions of the affected populations in many of the areas. It especially promotes access to education and minimal economic development of households, thereby increasing resiliency.

Finally, witness of some difficult situations Solidarités International is committed for informing and, if deemed necessary, alerting the public opinion about specific situations⁶, and especially about issues related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene.

1. Objectives of Solidarités International WASH programmes

→ Main Objective

The main objective of Solidarités International WASH programmes is to reduce the incidence of and mortality of waterborne diseases and the resulting mortality, by allowing durable access to drinking water and a hygienic environment for populations that are in a critical humanitarian situation, with a short- (emergency), medium- (rehabilitation), or long-term impact (development), depending on the context.

→ Specific Objectives

- **Objective 1: Reduce public health and nutrition risks by meeting the vital needs of the communities whose lives are threatened.**

In the short term, Solidarités International implements responses aiming to prevent and stop epidemics caused by waterborne diseases. Following a natural catastrophe or population' displacements, the lack of drinking water and precarious conditions of sanitation, which are sometimes aggravated by overpopulation, generate major health and nutrition risks, and therefore affect the survival of affected populations. In order to reduce this risk to the maximum or respond to an epidemic outbreak, Solidarités International implements water supply programmes, sanitation activities (management of human waste, and trash or garbage, and combating vectors) and sensitize the population to the importance of applying basic hygiene practices.

Solidarités International also focuses on gender issues since women are most of the time prone to vulnerability in emergency context, especially regarding issues linked to sanitation infrastructures⁷.

In the medium term, Solidarités International implements responses that aim to reduce the incidence of waterborne diseases in the areas where their prevalence is abnormally elevated as a result of a lack of basic infrastructure and an unsanitary environment.

⁶ See article 8 of Solidarités International charter.

⁷ In developing countries, one third of rape occurred in a context related to water (WHO).

- **Objective 2: Increase resiliency of the disadvantaged population towards health and nutrition risks**

After a crisis, affected communities are sometimes unable to recover their previous level of access to vital services without external assistance. Helping with the construction or rehabilitation of basic infrastructure can be provided by Solidarités International in a timely way if the causes are only due to short term causes.

However, in some of our contexts of response, the vulnerability of the communities is increased by long term factors. Parallel to the activities of access to water and sanitation, the activities of Solidarités International must also allow for strengthening of the ability of the recipient community to face future crises and regain a certain level of self-sufficiency. These actions can sometimes be undertaken through support for national or local authorities.

As soon as a response of first order has been carried out, the recipients, direct or indirect, must be involved in the formulation and implementation of projects, in order to guarantee their relevance and their sustainability. This degree of involvement varies in function of the context and is adapted to each situation. A specific attention will be focused on women.

In the contexts of transition (medium- or long-term), the programmes of Solidarités International take into consideration the problem of future management of the resources – water and the infrastructures of water and sanitation by the local actors – in order to promote their durability and development.

Similarly, for improved effect on the reduction of risks of the spread of diseases, our programmes foresee the promotion of behavioral change (of habits) of households in relation to hygiene, in order to more efficiently protect themselves against parasites and waterborne diseases.

Finally, Solidarités International implements programmes for prevention of risks in the areas affected by recurring natural disasters in order to reduce risks (DRR).

Through a comprehensive understanding of the humanitarian problem and an understanding of the recipient communities, Solidarités International would like to have an integrated WASH approach and implement projects tailored as closely as possible to the needs of individuals.

As soon as conditions make it possible, and a response to critical needs has been undertaken, we carry out our action through long term projects aiming at leading recipient communities to self-sufficiency.

In the phases of reconstruction, the action of Solidarités International therefore establishes a primary link with development aid which will be provided by the other actors.

- **Objective 3: Improve the living conditions of the poorest communities.**

Apart from the effects on public health and nutrition, the lack of access to water and sanitation infrastructure has an impact on diverse sectors, especially on food security and household economies, and the education of the children.

Waterborne diseases have a real cost to household economies, especially on those of the most deprived: medical treatment costs, the reduction in productivity of affected workers, and the time spent on water collection (which could be used for income generating activities). Likewise, the development of household economies (livelihoods) is closely linked to the access to water. The returns of agricultural activities or farming for example, depend in part on the availability of water.

Given the fact that 70% of the population living in conditions of extreme poverty are women and young girls, Solidarités International will focus more specifically on women.

At the same time, children, especially girls, may not be sent to school because they have to take up the task of collecting water or because the schools lack adequate sanitation.

On the whole, access to water and sanitation contribute to improving the living conditions of the people. It is indispensable for their ability to live with a minimum of human dignity, and for durable social and economic development.

Solidarités International is therefore fully committed to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. Solidarités International' intervention criteria (WASH Programmes)

→ Specific criteria

- The mortality rate caused by water related illnesses is abnormally high (compared to international standards, national rates...).
- The incidence rate of water-related illnesses or the occurrence of epidemics is abnormally high (compared to national and regional rates...).
- The quality of available water is not sufficient to assure the coverage of vital needs.
- The quality of the water consumed by the populations is harmful to their health.
- The conditions of accessibility⁸ to water are such that the health of the populations is affected.
- The unhealthy environment in terms of sanitation increases the risks of resource pollution, of development of vectors and of transmission of illnesses linked to the environment.
- Lack of knowledge, aptitude and poor hygiene practices increase the risks of transmission of water-related illnesses.
- Access to water services and sanitation is not sustained because of the lack of aptitude of the local participants to maintain them or to prevent and reduce environmental risks.
- The water access conditions, hygiene, and sanitation are such that they do not allow for guaranteeing the conditions of life with dignity, or of developing livelihoods.

⁸ Here "accessibility" refers to the distance to the water point, an acceptable waiting time, a reasonable price, and secure access

→ WASH Indicators

Indicator linked to the specific objective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incidence rate of illnesses linked to water is reduced by X% within the targeted populations here now to the end of the project.
Indicators linked to the water supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The access rate to drinking water within the target population went from X% to 100% from here to the end of the project (max X persons per water point - distance to water point/dwelling < 500 m) • By the end of the project, the quantity of available water among the target population went from X to X liters/day/person • 90% of the works developed supplied a water quality abiding by WHO guidelines (0 fecal coliform per 100 ml - turbidity < 5 NTU) • By the end of the project, the average waiting time at the water point went from X to 15 min • By the end of the project, 90% of the developed water points were cleaned daily by the aid recipient communities.
Indicators linked to sanitation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From here to the end of the project, 100% of the aid recipients (schools, markets, targeted health centers, etc.) use the infrastructure set up in public places in a hygienic manner. • The access rate of hygienic sanitation within the target population went from X% to Y% from here to the end of the project (max Z persons per latrine) • By the end of the project, 90% of the sanitation infrastructures set up were cleaned daily by the aid recipient communities.
Indicators linked to the promotion of hygiene⁹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From here to the end of the project, the proportion of women in aid recipient sites who wash their hands before cooking went from X to Y% • From here to the end of the project, the proportion of students in aid recipient schools who wash their hands before eating went from X to Y% • From here to the end of the project, the proportion of aid recipient schools who store water in clean and closed containers went from X to Y%
Indicators linked to the social management of water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of the project, 90% of the target communities receive monthly hygiene awareness raising sessions organized by the trained site participants • By the end of the project, 90% of the works that are set up are maintained by the participants involved in WASH.

⁹ The indicators linked to hygiene promotion are given as an example. The key indicators kept for the follow up of a project are chosen in function with the behaviors identified as being the most at risk at the time the design each project is conceived.

3. Populations and areas targeted by Solidarités International' WASH programmes

Solidarités International' WASH programmes target the populations that are the most vulnerable to water-related risks in acute humanitarian situations. In order to assure maximum integration of vulnerable groups, the entire group of individuals in the targeted area is taken into consideration during an intervention. Host communities, as well as displaced population can especially benefit from our projects.

However, we pay particular attention to women (generally in charge of water management and of hygiene at the home level), children less than five years old (the most exposed to water-related illnesses) and other individuals or groups of individuals with particular vulnerabilities which aggravate the problem (handicapped persons, the elderly, widows, those living in extreme poverty, victims of discrimination, the marginalized...)

Our programmes also directly or indirectly target the participants involved in the management of WASH and sometimes public health.

Overall, our programmes address populations having the following profile:

- Populations whose basic infrastructures have been directly affected by the crisis (destruction or water resource pollution).
- Populations displaced following a crisis: refugees, returnees and internal displaced persons (camps, sites, return zone...).
- Populations that are victims of, or exposed to, environmental risks (droughts, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis...).
- Destitute populations from the rural zones excluded from aid and from development efforts (often isolated areas, difficult to access and with coverage rates well below the average of urban areas).
- Destitute populations in urban/outlying areas where the situation of chronic crisis causes unhealthy living conditions and elevated sanitary risks (often aggravated by poverty and population density, as in slums, for example).

4. WASH programmes

In the context of extreme emergency, Solidarités International responds to the needs of the affected population in the shortest amount of time, through water distribution and treatment projects, supplying hygiene products of greatest necessity, and constructing a temporary infrastructure for hygiene and sanitation.

Next, we set up projects aimed at creating a sustainable response to the needs of the populations over the long term. In order to attain this objective, Solidarités International establishes sustainable infrastructures with access to water and sanitation, but this is not sufficient and it is necessary to strengthen the populations' ability for resilience to ensure continuity, if not the development of these activities that are implemented. Through hygiene promotion and local capacity building, Solidarités International supports the local participants in changing behaviors and in taking charge of

the infrastructure. As far as possible, we implement projects that integrate water, hygiene and sanitation because it is recognized that the impact on health is so much greater when we act in these three areas simultaneously. Where the need is felt, Solidarités International is there to initiate activities uniting access to basic infrastructures with food security.

In rural zones, we focus on protecting water resources and alleviating the disparities compared with urban areas. In the urban areas, we focus on developing the infrastructure in order to respond to the demographic growth of the cities.

In every case, our interventions are adapted to the context, as close as possible in proportion to need and centered on populations. With consideration for pragmatism and effectiveness, we favor an approach that relies on existing abilities, structures, and infrastructures having considered setting up new structures or constructions.

Table of Solidarités international “type” WASH Interventions¹⁰:

	Water	Hygiene	Sanitization of the Habitat	Local Capacity Building
Urgent:	Treatment and distribution of water by tank trucks Chlorination points	Distribution of hygiene kits (soap, mosquito nets, water bottles...) Mass awareness raising (elementary hygiene) Temporary showers hand-washing stations	Trenches/Defecation fields Temporary latrines Refuse pits	Chlorination techniques’ training Creation of “community teams” (health agents...)
In the reconstruction phase/ Longer term support:	Spring development Construction and restoration of wells/Drilling Reconstruction and extension of gravity feed networks Treatment stations Rainwater collection Construction and restoration of irrigation canals Livestock wells	Hygiene Promotion Campaign (personal hygiene, water, environment and food hygiene) Hygiene Infrastructure (bathing areas, hand-washing...)	Construction and rebuilding of permanent family and public latrines Emptying of latrines Compost areas Rainwater drainage Refuse collection points Management of medical waste (incinerators and refuse compactor pits)	Creation and revitalization of WASH Committee Training of key participants for Hygiene Promotion (teachers, health agents...) Institutional support for the participants and authorities in charge of water management and sanitation

¹⁰ Non-exhaustive and non-limiting list

5. Solidarités International' WASH intervention methodology

There are different phases of setting up a WASH project: Needs assessment; design; project implementation, monitoring; evaluation.

→ Needs assessment

Needs assessment are conducted following Solidarités International' overall and regional strategic decisions related to the pre identification of needs. At the end of the diagnosis, the final decision of whether or not to intervene will be ratified by the head office of the association. The purpose of this stage is to identify the problems and risks affecting the population and their coping strategies in order to define the most suitable responses. It entails harvesting the information relative to the context (situation before crisis and current situation, local regulations linked to WASH, vulnerabilities...), to the populations (cultural and socio-economic constraints, habits, expectations, needs, local abilities...) and the environment (water resources, geology, sources of pollution...) of the evaluated area. The participation of the targeted populations, as well as that of the different stakeholders in the needs evaluation is crucial (local authorities, acting NGO in the area, agents from health and education sectors, entities involved in water management, hygiene and sanitation...). The tools of Solidarités International' tool box should be used.

→ Project design

Based on the conclusion of the assessment, Solidarités International will design a project proposal in order to address the greatest needs of the populations. It entails proposing social and technical solutions to bring about something which is concurrently pragmatic, relevant, effective and flexible enough to be adapted to the context.

As much as possible, Solidarités International seeks the direct participation of the stakeholders in the design of the project (and of its implementation). Actually, this guarantees the relevance and ownership, or of the sustainability, of the implemented activities.

In an emergency set up, the involvement of the stakeholders can be informative. But as the crisis evolves, this participation must allow the communities to tend toward autonomy. Solidarités International can start projects in partnership with the local stakeholders who will be in charge of the future management of infrastructure.

At the design stage and where the context allows for it, Solidarités International tries to evaluate the costs of functioning and to maintain many conceivable technical options in order to measure the ability of the populations to perpetuate the project. With this view, Solidarités International can conduct feasibility studies in order to evaluate the viability of these conceived technologies.

In parallel, a dialogue is held with the aid recipient communities as far as the type of infrastructure management to be set up. It must allow the entire population, including the most destitute, access to a minimum amount of drinking water (minimum standards to be defined as a function of the context), through a joint system of taking charge of the cost.

In order to do this, Solidarités International searches first of all for the solutions that build on what exists already. Still, we pay particular attention to innovations, whether they are technological or in

matters of group water management and hygiene awareness raising. Also, all proposed actions must be in agreement with the national WASH policies and strategies. After determining the activities which will allow the attainment of the project's objectives and expected results, Solidarités International evaluates the risks which might harm the smooth rollout of the operation. Once the risks and negative impacts are identified, we look for the means to avoid them or to decrease them. In every case, our activity must not worsen the situation and must contribute to an environment favorable to the respect and the protection of the individual.

As soon as a response is seen, Solidarités International is foreseeing an exit strategy. While we respond to emergencies, more sustainable solutions must be set up in the months following the start of the intervention (by Solidarités International or by other participants).

In the meantime, Solidarités International sets some objectives for covering needs beyond the time when the area will no longer be a priority for intervention.

Solidarités International then establishes the necessary budget for the implementation of the operation and searches to optimize the available resources (human means, technical, logistical and administrative).

→ Project implementation and monitoring

As soon as the project is launched, the programme manager and the head of the mission are guarantors of respect regarding our engagement with the population, the donor, and the head office. It is the whole on-site team which allows the implementation of the technical, administrative and logistical work for the programme. A strong partnership is established with local stakeholders during the whole duration of the project.

Throughout the project, the teams follow up on the indicators of activities, of results and of context follow up, which were defined at the time of its design. This follow up allows us not only to evaluate the progress made, but also to propose alternative solutions if needed.

Three kinds of monitoring have to be distinguished:

Monitoring the activities will allow guaranteeing the efficiency and the effectiveness of the activities taking into account the financial constraints and the time bounding.

Monitoring the results will allow guaranteeing that the foreseen results and objectives will be reached. In case of needs, decisions have to be taken in order to adjust the activities or to strengthen some means or components. Technical choices are assessed on that purpose. Results monitoring should also be focus on the monitoring of negative impacts. Objectively Verifiable Indicators are specified with the logical framework of the project. OVI listed in the tool box should be used in priority. Some new indicators can be specifically designed if needed, the number of indicators should remain low and as precise as possible to make easy and feasible the monitoring of the results **(maximum 3 results by logical framework and maximum 3 indicators by results)**.

Monitoring the local context. Needs of the population and risks will change during the implementation of the project. It is therefore necessary to monitor the context and enhance the good understanding of the local situation in terms of vulnerability. This monitoring could lead to

adjustments (cancellation or new activities) if the relevance of the project is hindered by some main context changes.

On a general point of view, **a good monitoring should lead to decisions** and some changes regarding the project implementation. It is therefore highly recommended to carefully design monitoring tools and to focus on the relevance of the indicators.

→ Project evaluation

After an intervention (and, if possible, even during the course of intervention) Solidarités International should lead an evaluation of the project. The main evaluation criteria (DAC criteria): effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and relevance. The evaluation is carried out by external consultants or by internal dedicated staff. Costs of systematic evaluation have to be foreseen when designing any project. Terms of references (available in the Tool Box) have to be designed in order to precisely highlight the evaluation question. WASH or Programme's coordinator and Head of Mission will be in charge of taking into account the recommendations.

Through the lessons learned and the capitalization produced, the objective of an evaluation is to improve the quality of future interventions and learn from the experience. Also, when the situation calls for it, Solidarités International carries out an impact study few months or years after the termination of the programme.

IV. Food security and livelihood framework



The right to food is about ensuring that all people have the capacity to feed themselves in dignity. The right to food is a human right. It protects the right of all human beings to live in dignity, free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The right to food is protected under international human rights and humanitarian law and several national constitutions. It is also recognized in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights as well as a plethora of other instruments.

The MDG on hunger requires that the proportion of people suffering from hunger be halved between 1990 and 2015. However, never before than nowadays, have so many people suffered from hunger. With an estimated increase of 105 million hungry people in 2009, there are now 1.02 billion malnourished people in the world, meaning that almost one sixth of all humanity is suffering from hunger. Nearly six million children die of starvation every year.¹¹

The recorded price increase of foodstuffs since 2007 has hit the poorest the most in rural and urban area.

Nowadays more than half of the humanity lives in cities and this figure is rising day by day. Food security for city dwellers that are not food producers is a daily concern. Solidarités International is already implementing food security project in urban area and is willing to increase its focus on urban food insecurity in the coming years.

Moreover, natural disasters exacerbate vulnerability to food insecurity by destroying housing, infrastructures and productive assets (crops, tools, animals, savings). Natural disasters further marginalize the poorest by destroying their livelihoods resulting in loss of income and the development of negative coping strategies.

1. Defining food security and livelihood

Food security is achieved *“[...] when all people, in particular the most vulnerable and the least resilient have secure access at all times to a sufficient quantity and quality of food that meet their dietary needs, and are conforms to local culture and tastes, allowing them to lead an active and healthy life in the respect of human dignity.”*

Solidarités International’ food security / livelihood programmes are designed to improve food security at the individual level and livelihoods at the household levels.

The definition of food security is based on **three fundamental concepts**, all three of which are essential in order to attain food security and are at the core of Solidarités International’ analysis of food security: **availability, access and utilization/consumption**.

Only an understanding of the causes of food security (according to the three “pillars”) allows for the definition of good quality programmes.

➔ **Availability:** refers to total good quality food stocks that are available locally for a population, household or individual during a given period. Availability can be restricted by factors that limit production levels. These factors can be:

- Temporary (drought, flooding, bug attacks, epidemics, insecurity, embargoes)

¹¹ FAO, December 2008

- Structural (isolation, which restricts access to agricultural supply)

→ **Access:** refers to the capacity of a household to obtain healthy food in sufficient quantity and quality in order to satisfy the nutritional needs of all household members. The factors influencing access to food can be:

- Economic (price of foodstuffs, income, employment opportunities, access to credit etc.)
- Social and political (discrimination, isolation, insecurity)
- Productive (access to land, access to seeds, distance from marketplaces)

→ **Utilization/consumption:** refers to the way in which food is utilized/consumed by the consumer. This entails food distribution within a household, its preparation and its physiological absorption/utilization. Determining factors are:

- Physiological (adequate assimilation of food by the body)
- Hygienic (water quality and sanitary conditions, access to primary health services)
- Educational (food storing/conservation conditions and basic nutritional knowledge)

It is clear that depending on whether the cause of food insecurity arises from a lack of food availability, access or utilization, the expected results and the activities implemented to attain these will vary.

Improving food security and supporting livelihoods are the main objectives of Solidarités International programmes. Using the **livelihood framework** allows Solidarités International to place food security in a broader framework of individual behavior in the face of uncertainty, changes, and upcoming constraints or risks.

Livelihood is about the ways and means of ‘making a living’. The most widely accepted definition of livelihood stems from the work of Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway: *“A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long-term”*

Livelihood deals with people, their resources and what they do with these. Livelihoods essentially revolve around resources (such as land, crops, seeds, labor, knowledge, cattle, money, social relationships, and so on), but these resources cannot be disconnected from the issues and problems of access and changing political, economic and socio-cultural circumstances.

In terms of food-security assessments, a livelihoods approach involves assessing the longer-term risks to livelihoods, as well as short-term nutritional or life-threatening risks.

2. Objectives of Solidarités International’ food security / livelihood programmes

→ Main Objective

The main objective of Solidarités International’ food security and livelihood programmes is to **save lives, alleviate human suffering and restore food security by acting at different levels while helping people maintain their dignity, and strengthening their livelihood in a sustainable manner.**

The food security programmes aim to support populations, enabling them to recover a level of food security at least equivalent to that which they had before the crisis and to ensure the sustainability of their livelihoods and coping strategies

→ Specific objectives

- **Objective 1: To save lives of population affected by crisis.**

by giving them access to food of sufficient quality and quantity and by providing the necessary conditions for them to be in a position to integrate and make profit from this food (especially through access to drinking water).

- **Objective 2: To reduce and/or prevent the negative impacts of a crisis in reinforcing the resilience capacity of the most vulnerable. To save lives of population affected by crisis.**

During or after a crisis, the affected population is sometimes unable to recover and sustain food security (population displacement, loss of production factors, destruction of food or seed stocks, loss of livestock...). To support the local population to recover sustainable livelihoods and develop sustainable coping strategies, Solidarités International implements medium and longer terms projects.

Communities must be involved in the development of project implementation as much as possible so as to guarantee their quality. This degree of involvement varies in function with context and available means.

Solidarités International teams should do their best to ensure that negative impacts are anticipated, reduced or avoided.

3. Solidarités International’intervention criteria (food security / livelihood programmes)

Results to achieve and activities to implement to achieve the results always depend on the context. Consequently, depending on whether food insecurity is due to a problem of food availability, access or utilization / consumption, the type of vulnerability indicators and thus, the activities chosen vary considerably.

Apart from the number of kcal/day and dietary diversity, there are no or very few universal standards for evaluating food security levels. However, different tools have been developed to guide FS assessment (cf in the tool box). Please note that data concerning the food security indicators must be

compared against the baseline data of a “normal” year in each context, in contrast to water, sanitation and nutrition indicators which are compared against standard reference values.

→ Criteria of intervention

- Malnutrition rates are especially high and/or rapidly rising
- Weak availability and/or lack of access and/or unsuitable consumption/utilization of food endanger household food security.
- Massive assets destitution threatens food security on the short or medium term.
- Negative coping strategies threaten the sustainability of the livelihoods

As shown in the table below, activities depend upon the intervention criteria:

Activities	Intervention criteria / context
Direct food distribution	The population is cut off from all food sources Food availability problems
Food for Work	Food access and availability problems Damaged infrastructure Insecurity prevents populations from providing themselves with food The targeted population does not suffer acute malnutrition The targeted population able to work (exclusion of widows, the physically disabled...)
Cash for Work	Food is available locally but is inaccessible due to a lack of cash Markets are regularly supplied in sufficient quantities Weak inflation risk Food insecurity results from loss of income, employment or goods.
Food Vouchers	Essential food items can be bought Opportunity to make deals with merchants Food availability The markets work Urban settings
Restoration/reconstruction of commercial infrastructure (markets, stalls etc.)	Food insecurity results from market fragmentation
Direct distribution of seeds and tools	Food insecurity results from the reduction or the loss of crops Households are lacking seeds and tools and are unable to have access to sufficient seeds by themselves Weak market availability of seeds and tools The lack of means of production impedes production levels

Seeds vouchers and seeds fairs	<p>Food insecurity results from the reduction or the loss of crops</p> <p>Households are lacking seeds and tools and are unable to have access to sufficient seeds by themselves</p> <p>The lack of means of production impedes production levels</p> <p>Seeds of good quality are available locally in sufficient quantity</p> <p>The diversity of seeds used by the farmers is really high</p>
Livestock support (livestock distribution, animal health, pasture management / fodder production, destocking or restocking)	<p>Loss of livestock due to drought, epidemic or conflict/insecurity</p> <p>Animal health problems (reemergence of epizootics or other diseases that cause high loss rates)</p> <p>Livestock rearing is one of the main sources of income.</p>

4. Populations and areas targeted by Solidarités International' food security / livelihood programmes

Solidarités International' food security and livelihood programmes target the populations most vulnerable to food insecurity.

In the interests of objectivity and so as to maximize the impact of our programmes, all the individuals of the targeted area are considered. Teams must pay particular attention to the interests and needs of host communities so as to not cause discontentment or jealousy. Moreover, Solidarités International' teams must ensure that the issues surrounding land use and water are understood and taken into account in programme implementation development.

Finally, particular attention is paid to women (who tend to have high levels of involvement in agricultural production and in the transformation of foodstuffs), to children under five (the most exposed to malnutrition) and to other individuals or groups of individuals excluded or firmly marginalized from access to production activities (the physically disabled, the HIV Aids-infected, the elderly, widows, people living in extreme poverty, victims of discrimination, marginalized persons...).

Our programmes address more specifically the following population types:

- Populations displaced following a crisis: refugees, returnees and the internally displaced (camps, sites, return zones...)
- Populations to which the crisis has brought a marked decrease in food stocks and/or productive assets
- Destitute rural populations excluded from aid and developmental efforts (often isolated zones, difficult to access and with high malnutrition rates)
- Destitute urban/peri-urban populations particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, especially due to the effects of the global food crisis
- Populations that are victim of or exposed to natural hazards (drought, flooding, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunami...)

5. Food security and livelihood programmes

Solidarités International' action consists of providing a response as quick as possible to the needs of the affected populations through projects of food distribution and primary necessity goods (blankets, cooking utensils). Beyond the response to emergency needs, Solidarités International implements programmes that aim to reinforce sustainable coping strategies among beneficiaries and protect / strengthen livelihoods. Furthermore, through the implementation of trainings, Solidarités International foments the improvement of agricultural practices so as to increase production capacity at the household level.

The food security programmes form part of a comprehensive strategy comprising three kind of projects:

- (i) **Direct food aid** (uncompensated food distribution, food for work) or monetary alternatives (money for work and distribution of food vouchers) to respond to the lack of accessibility or availability of foodstuffs. In cases of extreme emergency,
- (ii) **Rehabilitation programmes and support for agricultural production** of the populations most vulnerable to food insecurity.
- (iii) **Support to livelihoods** to reinforce and/ or diversify local coping strategies

Solidarités International' mandate does not include programmes of therapeutic treatment for acute and severe malnutrition. However, the primary objective of the food security programmes is to prevent and limit increases in malnutrition rates. Understanding the direct and underlying causes of malnutrition is important in order to achieve this.

It is also required to ensure that actions of short-term impact (for example the distribution of products that are unavailable locally or too expensive for local populations) do not undermine long term activities based on community mobilization and the utilization of local resources.

In every instance, our interventions are adapted to context, needs based and centered on the populations. In the interests of pragmatism and efficiency we favor an approach based on existing capacities, structures and infrastructures before envisaging the implementation of new structures or constructions or modifying production and commercial systems.

6. Solidarités International' food security / livelihood intervention methodology

There are different phases of setting up a Food security / livelihood project: Needs assessment; design; project implementation, monitoring; evaluation.

→ Needs assessment

Needs assessment are conducted following Solidarités International' overall and regional strategic decisions related to the pre identification of needs. At the end of the diagnosis, the final decision of whether or not to intervene will be ratified by the head office of the association. The purpose of this stage is to identify the problems and risks affecting the population and their coping strategies in order to define the most suitable responses. It entails harvesting the information relative to the context (situation before crisis and current situation, prices, vulnerabilities criteria...), to the

populations (cultural and socio-economic constraints, habits, expectations, needs, local abilities...) and the environment (water resources, land uses, natural risks...) of the assessed area. The participation of the targeted populations, as well as that of the different stakeholders in the needs evaluation is essential (local authorities, acting NGO in the area, agents from health and education sectors, entities involved in water management, hygiene and sanitation...). The tools of Solidarités International' tool box should be used.

The analysis of the situation and the definition of the needs both require a multidisciplinary approach. The analysis includes both a macro and micro analysis. It should be borne in mind that vulnerability to food insecurity is a result of a population's physical, socio-political and economic situation and fluctuates according to the wealth group in which the household finds itself and change overtime.

The assessment phase involves:

- Evaluating the **availability** of food for the different population groups and analyzing the cause of the problems identified.
- Determining the ways in which **access and use** of food is made and analyzing the causes of the problems identified.
- Adopting the **livelihood** framework to understand the causes and consequences of food insecurity.
- Focusing on **risks analysis** in order to identify the types of **vulnerabilities** and the **coping strategies** developed in order to face those risks.
- Identifying the **geographic zones** where vulnerability to food insecurity is the highest and identifying the sub-groups that are the most vulnerable.
- Understanding the **coping strategies** (long and short term) used in each situation.

The needs assessment phase also enables us to anticipate any possible negative impact on the programme and to determine the external constraints that could jeopardize the good progress of the project by considerably diminishing these negative impacts.

→ **Project design**

Based on the conclusion of the assessment, Solidarités International will design a project proposal in order to address the greatest needs of the populations. It entails proposing social and technical solutions to bring about something which is concurrently pragmatic, relevant, effective and flexible enough to be adapted to the context.

As much as possible, Solidarités International seeks the direct participation of the stakeholders in the design of the project (and of its implementation). Actually, this guarantees the relevance and ownership, or of the sustainability, of the implemented activities.

Also, all proposed actions must be in agreement with the national agricultural / food security policies and strategies. After determining the activities which will allow the attainment of the project's objectives and expected results, Solidarités International evaluates the risks which might harm the smooth rollout of the operation. Once the risks and negative impacts are identified, we look for the

means to avoid them or to decrease them. In every case, our activity must not worsen the situation and must contribute to an environment favorable to the respect and the protection of the individual.

As soon as a response is seen, Solidarités International is foreseeing an exit strategy. While we respond to emergencies, more sustainable solutions must be set up in the months following the start of the intervention (by Solidarités International or by other participants).

In the meantime, Solidarités International sets some objectives for covering needs beyond the time when the area will no longer be a priority for intervention.

Solidarités International then establishes the necessary budget for the implementation of the operation and searches to optimize the available resources (human means, technical, logistical and administrative).

→ Project implementation and monitoring

As soon as the project is launched, the programme manager and the head of the mission are guarantors of respect regarding our engagement with the population, the donor, and the head office. It is the whole on-site team which allows the implementation of the technical, administrative and logistical work for the programme. A strong partnership is established with local stakeholders during the whole duration of the project.

Throughout the project, the teams follow up on the indicators of activities, of results and of context follow up, which were defined at the time of its design. This follow up allows us not only to evaluate the progress made, but also to propose alternative solutions if needed.

Three kinds of monitoring have to be distinguished:

Monitoring the activities will allow guaranteeing the efficiency and the effectiveness of the activities taking into account the financial constraints and the time bounding.

Monitoring the results will allow guaranteeing that the foreseen results and objectives will be reached. In case of needs, decisions have to be taken in order to adjust the activities or to strengthen some means or components. Technical choices are assessed on that purpose. Results monitoring should also be focus on the monitoring of negative impacts. Objectively Verifiable Indicators are specified with the logical framework of the project. OVI listed in the tool box should be used in priority. Some new indicators can be specifically designed if needed, the number of indicators should remain low and as precise as possible to make easy and feasible the monitoring of the results **(maximum 3 results by logical framework and maximum 3 indicators by results)**.

Monitoring the local context. Needs of the population and risks will change during the implementation of the project. It is therefore necessary to monitor the context and enhance the good understanding of the local situation in terms of vulnerability. This monitoring could lead to adjustments (cancellation or new activities) if the relevance of the project is hindered by some main context changes.

On a general point of view, **a good monitoring should lead to decisions** and some changes regarding the project implementation. It is therefore highly recommended to carefully design monitoring tools and to focus on the relevance of the indicators.

→ Project evaluation:

After an intervention (and, if possible, even during the course of intervention) Solidarités International should lead an evaluation of the project. The main evaluation criteria (DAC criteria): effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and relevance. The evaluation is carried out by external consultants or by internal dedicated staff. Costs of systematic evaluation have to be foreseen when designing any project. Terms of references (available in the Tool Box) have to be designed in order to precisely highlight the evaluation question. Food Security or Programme's coordinator and Head of Mission will be in charge of taking into account the recommendations.

Through the lessons learned and the capitalization produced, the objective of an evaluations is to improve the quality of future interventions and learn from the experience. Also, when the situation calls for it, Solidarités International carries out an impact study few months or years after the termination of the programme.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: Legislative aspects (WASH).

ANNEX II: Legislative aspects (Food security).

Annex I: legislative aspects (WASH)

Over the last few years we have been part of a consciousness-raising exercise among states to recognize that access to water is a 'right' and not just a 'vital need'

This right is implicitly acknowledged as a human right in various declarations and resolutions adopted by the United Nations. In 2002 the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights adopted the General Observation number 15 on 'The right to water' and formally confirmed that the right to water was a fundamental human right, as defined thus: "The right to water means that each human being is guaranteed access to a supply of clean water for personal and domestic use, in sufficient quantities, and of an acceptable quality. A sufficient quantity of water is crucial in the prevention of death by dehydration and in the reduction of exposure to diseases attributed to lack of water, also for consumption, cooking, and personal and domestic hygiene."

In 2000 the member states of the United Nations approved the Millennium Declaration for the Development (amended in 2002 to include the target of sanitation regarding the programme in place in Johannesburg). The international community has adopted Objective 7¹² which includes "reducing by half, between now and 2015, the percentage of the population that does not have continued access to a supply of clean drinking water and purification services at source" (Target 10)

At the halfway mark to 2015 we already know that in 2008 some of these millennium objectives have not been reached, notably the purification targets

Numerous countries have experienced delays in implementation, notably those in Sub-Saharan Africa either due to a lack of capacity, political difficulties (or lack of will?) in implementing action plans that respond to population needs (and even their rights,,,) regarding access to water and a sanitary environment

This inability of the governments to respond to the needs of their population is often linked to armed conflicts, crises and natural disasters. Climate change is the cause of more frequent and more drastic natural disasters. In the face of these challenges Solidarités International is strengthening its strategy for preparing for recurring natural disasters especially in Asiatic countries.

¹² Objective 7 : Ensuring a sustainable environment

Annex II: legislative aspects (Food security)

Hunger is both a violation of human dignity and an obstacle to social, political and economic progress. **International legislation recognizes that each person has the fundamental right to be free from hunger**, and 22 countries have inserted the right to a food supply into their constitution.

Whilst the **right to a food supply** is recognized directly or indirectly by all countries in the world be it due to war, drought, natural disasters or to poverty, hunger will continue to be the reason for suffering worldwide, and at this moment in time hunger kills one person every five seconds, amounting to **12 people a minute**. Right now - according to FAO - **963 million people suffer from hunger**.

The notion of the **right to food** (or the right to access to food) appears for the first time in the **Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man** in 1948. According to article 25 'All people have the right to a quality of life that assures good health and wellbeing of the individual and their family, especially where access to food is concerned'. This text is a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations and is a **simple declaration of intent**, though it has been adopted by nearly all the States, thus conferring upon the text a certain moral authority. However **it does not place any specific obligation on the state**.

In 1966 the international pact relating to economic social and cultural rights was adopted in order to legitimize the obligations set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The pact is now ratified by 160 states. Regarding the right to a food supply, Article 11 of the **International Pact** says: *"The states that subscribe to the present pact recognize the right of all people to a reasonable quality of life for the individual and for the family, including sufficient food, clothing and housing, as well as ongoing improvement to his quality of life. The party states will take all measures necessary to ensure that this right is a reality, and the states recognize the importance of international cooperation that is freely given. The states that are part of this pact recognize the right of all people to be free from the threat of hunger [...]"* The states are also expressly invited to legislate to enable the supply of food to be properly and completely administered.

What is the distinction between the right to be free from hunger and the right to sufficient food?

The first is a fundamental right - it signifies that the State has an obligation to respect this. It must guarantee that its inhabitants are not victims of hunger, and this is closely linked to the right to life. States must also do everything possible to encourage unhindered access to an adequate food supply for each inhabitant of their territory – in other words the people should have the physical and economic means to access at any given moment food that is of adequate quality and in sufficient quantity to live a healthy and active life. A food supply is judged 'adequate' when it is culturally acceptable and it must be produced in a manner that is economically and socially sustainable.

In 1996 the **Declaration in Rome on world food security reaffirmed** the right to a food supply for everyone *"We as heads of state and of governments reaffirm the right of each human being to have access to a safe and nutritious food supply that conforms to the right to adequate food supply and the fundamental right of each to be free from hunger"* (Article 11).