

MONITORING & EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

*NEXUS - Nexus Approach to Climate
Resilience and Food Security in the
Sahel*

Programme Title	NEXUS – Nexus Approach to Climate Resilience and Food Security in the Sahel
Programme Number	UNDP/FAO/SAH/2022/001
Geographic Coverage	Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger (Sahel Region)
Programme Duration	60 months (January 2023 – December 2027)
Total Budget	USD 12,500,000 (UNDP: USD 6,000,000 FAO: USD 4,500,000 USAID: USD 2,000,000)
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1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THIS M&E FRAMEWORK

This Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework establishes the systematic approach for tracking, measuring, and reporting on the progress and results of the NEXUS Joint Programme. It provides a common reference for all implementing partners — UNDP, FAO, and national counterparts — on how results will be measured, who is responsible for data collection, and how findings will be used for adaptive management and accountability to donors and beneficiaries.

The Framework is grounded in the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation, the UNDP Results-Based Management (RBM) guidelines, and FAO's Corporate Results Framework. It applies a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach to monitoring, ensuring that data is disaggregated by sex, age, and vulnerability status throughout the programme cycle.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Programme Document (ProDoc), the Annual Work Plans (AWPs), and the Programme Governance Framework. It will be reviewed and updated annually by the Joint M&E Working Group.

2. THEORY OF CHANGE SUMMARY

The NEXUS programme is built on the premise that climate-induced food insecurity in the Sahel is driven by the fragmented treatment of water, energy, and food systems. The programme's Theory of Change (ToC) posits that:

IF smallholder farmers and pastoralists receive integrated technical support addressing water management, renewable energy access, and sustainable land use simultaneously (the 'nexus approach'), AND IF national and local institutions are strengthened to plan and budget using nexus methodologies, AND IF policy frameworks are reformed to incentivise climate-smart agriculture, THEN communities in the target zones will demonstrate measurable improvements in food security, livelihood resilience, and adaptive capacity, CONTRIBUTING TO the Sahel's long-term pathway out of the food-climate crisis.

3. RESULTS CHAIN AND INDICATOR MATRIX

3.1 Programme Outcome and Output Structure

The programme operates across three outcomes, each with a set of outputs and corresponding indicators as detailed in the Results Matrix below.

Level	Statement	Indicator	Baseline (2022)	Target (2027)	Data Source	Frequency & Responsibility
IMPACT	Improved food security and climate resilience for 500,000 people in the Sahel	% of households with acceptable food consumption score (FCS)	38%	65%	FEWS NET / Household surveys	Annual / FAO
OUTCOME 1	Smallholder farmers adopt climate-smart agricultural practices	# farmers adopting ≥2 climate-smart practices	0	120,000	Field monitoring / Farmer surveys	Semi-annual / UNDP
OUTCOME 1	Smallholder farmers adopt climate-smart agricultural practices	% increase in crop yields among adopters	0%	25%	Crop assessment surveys	Annual / FAO
OUTPUT 1.1	Integrated water harvesting and irrigation systems constructed	# functional water harvesting structures built	0	450	Construction completion reports	Quarterly / UNDP
OUTPUT 1.2	Solar-powered irrigation systems installed	# solar irrigation pumps installed and operational	0	280	Asset registers / Field visits	Quarterly / FAO
OUTCOME 2	National and local institutions apply nexus planning approaches	# institutions with nexus-integrated development plans	0	24	Document review / Institutional assessments	Annual / UNDP
OUTPUT 2.1	Nexus planning tools developed and adopted	# national staff trained in nexus planning methodology	0	360	Training attendance records	Quarterly / UNDP
OUTCOME 3	Enabling policy environment for climate-smart agriculture strengthened	# policies/regulations revised to include nexus provisions	0	6	Policy tracking database	Annual / FAO
OUTPUT 3.1	Evidence-based policy briefs produced and disseminated	# policy briefs disseminated to decision-makers	0	18	Dissemination records	Semi-annual / UNDP
CROSS-CUTTING	Gender equality and women's empowerment	% of programme beneficiaries who are women	N/A	≥50%	Beneficiary registration database	Quarterly / Joint

4. DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1 Data Collection Methods

The programme will employ a mixed-methods approach to data collection, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative participatory assessments. The following primary methods will be used:

Method	Purpose	Frequency
Household surveys (structured questionnaire)	Measure food security, income, and livelihood indicators at household level	Annual (baseline, mid-term, endline)
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)	Capture institutional perspectives, policy changes, and qualitative outcomes	Semi-annual
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)	Explore community perceptions, gender dynamics, and social outcomes	Semi-annual
Direct observation / field visits	Verify physical outputs (structures, equipment) and assess quality	Quarterly
Administrative data review	Track training records, attendance, asset registers, and financial data	Monthly

4.2 Data Quality Assurance

All data collection instruments will be pre-tested with a sample of 30 respondents before full deployment. Enumerators will receive a minimum of 3 days of training covering data collection protocols, ethical guidelines, and digital data entry using the KoBoToolbox platform. Supervisors will conduct back-checks on a minimum of 10% of completed questionnaires. Data will be cleaned and validated within 5 working days of collection. The M&E Officer will prepare a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) report annually.

4.3 Data Disaggregation Standards

All beneficiary data must be disaggregated by: (i) sex (male/female/other); (ii) age group (under 18, 18–35, 36–60, over 60); (iii) vulnerability status (food insecure, displaced, persons with disabilities); and (iv) geographic location (country, region, district). Implementing partners are required to submit disaggregated data using the programme's standardised reporting template.

5. EVALUATION PLAN

Evaluation Type	Timing	Purpose	Managed By	Budget (USD)
Baseline Study	Q1 2023 (Completed)	Establish baseline values for all outcome and impact indicators	Joint M&E Unit	85,000
Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE)	Q2 2025	Assess progress, relevance, and efficiency; inform course corrections	Independent Evaluator	120,000
Final Evaluation	Q4 2027	Assess overall effectiveness, impact, sustainability, and lessons learned	Independent Evaluator	150,000

6. REPORTING SCHEDULE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Report Type	Frequency	Due Date	Submitted To
Monthly Activity Report	Monthly	10th of following month	Joint Programme Coordinator
Quarterly Progress Report	Quarterly	30 days after quarter end	UNDP/FAO Country Offices
Semi-Annual Progress	Semi-annual	31 July / 31 January	Donors (USAID, UNDP, FAO)

Report			HQ)
Annual Programme Report	Annual	28 February	Programme Board / Donors
Mid-Term Evaluation Report	Once (Year 3)	30 June 2025	Programme Board / Donors