

# FOCUS ON FOOD SECURITY

World Bank Response in  
Western and Central Africa



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# WORLD BANK RESPONSE IN NUMBERS



**\$4.38 billion**

deployed to address food insecurity.



More than

**7.6 million farmers**

provided with agricultural assets or services.



About

**170,000 tons of  
fertilizers**

distributed to vulnerable farmers in Western and Central Africa through the International Development Association (IDA).

# THE SCOPE OF THE CHALLENGE



More than  
**41 million people**

in Western and Central Africa are facing acute food insecurity during this year's lean season, and **29 million people** currently depend on emergency food assistance. Access to food for the most vulnerable populations continues to deteriorate.



More than  
**12 million children under 5 years old**

in the region are malnourished, including **3 million children** suffering from acute malnutrition.

**41 + million people**  
in Western & Central Africa  
are facing food insecurity

The region's high incidence of food insecurity is caused by fragility and conflict, high levels of poverty, accelerating climate change, low agricultural productivity, and environmental degradation—as well as strong growth in the demand for food.

Increasingly, agriculture and food production are affected by climate change.

Food and nutrition security is estimated to remain highly volatile in the near term due to potential risks to food availability driven by fertilizer shortages, food price inflation, the impact of the Ukraine war and on-going conflicts.

Throughout most of the region, cereal prices are more than **30% above the 5-year average**, with Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Central Africa Republic, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia being the most affected countries.



# ADDRESSING THE DRIVERS OF FRAGILITY AND FOOD INSECURITY

In the face of the crisis, the World Bank is deploying short- and long-term responses to boost food and nutrition security, reduce risks, and strengthen food systems, especially in hotspot countries in the Sahel, by mobilizing new financing.

- This financing includes efforts to encourage food production, enhance food systems resilience, facilitate greater trade, and support vulnerable households and producers.
- The immediate World Bank response focuses on helping countries respond earlier to emerging food security crises, including by reallocating funds from existing operations, activating Contingency Emergency Response Components (CERCs), mobilizing support from the IDA Crisis Response Window Early Response Financing (CRW ERF), and partnering with humanitarian actors to monitor food insecurity and draw up Food Security Preparedness Plans.

## KEY PORTFOLIO NUMBERS

**\$4.38 billion** under implementation

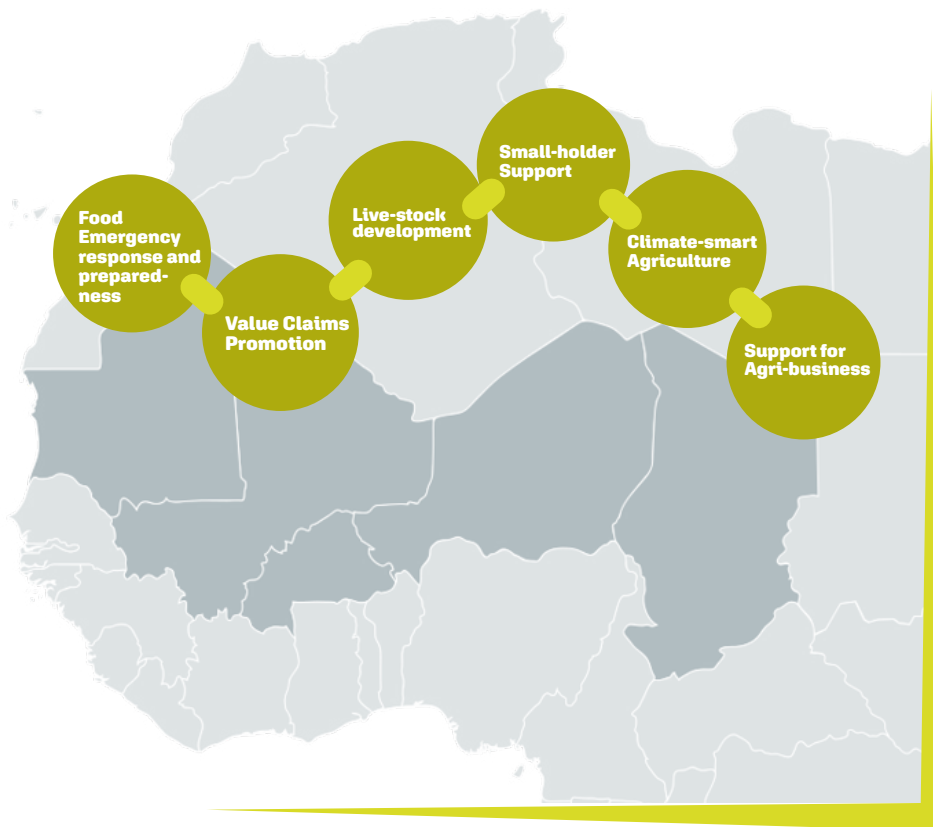
**\$1.6 billion** under preparation

**\$ 422.5 million** for food security emergency response (CERCs and CRW-ERF)

- As the root causes—and consequences—of food insecurity defy national borders, the World Bank is adopting a regional approach to building food systems resilience. The \$766 million West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) aims to benefit more than four million people across the region by increasing agricultural productivity through climate-smart agriculture, promoting intraregional value chains, and building regional capacity to manage agricultural risks.
- To date, more than **7.6 million farmers** were provided with agricultural assets or services through World Bank projects; allowing them to improve both their incomes and their food and nutrition security.
- The World Bank is working closely with governments and partners including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Program (WFP), and others to respond to the crisis and prevent it from turning into a humanitarian crisis.



# ADDRESSING THE DRIVERS OF FRAGILITY AND FOOD INSECURITY



**PRIORITIZED INTERVENTIONS TO MANAGE CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS AND COMPETING DEMANDS FOR LAND, WATER, AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES.**

# MAKING FERTILIZERS MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE

Most African countries are experiencing major challenges accessing affordable fertilizers for their farmers.

**Fertilizer prices have tripled since early 2020** and remain volatile, putting a stable supply of fertilizer out of reach of many small farmers. About 50% of all potash products imported into Sub-Saharan Africa are from Russia and Belarus, another 25% of phosphates come from Russia. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and trade sanctions have disrupted fertilizers supply chains. Sub-Saharan Africa has an average **fertilizer application rate of 22 kilograms per hectare**, compared to a world average seven-times higher (146 kilograms per hectare).







To meet the current and future food needs of the continent will require a more effective and efficient use of fertilizer nutrients to boost agricultural productivity. This means making fertilizers (both mineral and organic) more accessible and affordable to farmers by valuing available regional natural resources and developing local fertilizer production capacity, providing training on best practices for integrated soil fertility and fertilizer management and improved agronomic practices and developing stronger regional trade and supply-chains.

As of February 2023, World Bank agri-food operations have contributed to making fertilizer distribution systems more effective, benefitting **more than 7 million farmers** across Sub-Saharan Africa. In Western Africa, the International Development Association (IDA) is supporting the **procurement of about 170,000 tons of fertilizers** to distribute to vulnerable farmers.

# SPOTLIGHT

## Supporting the Sahel's pastoralists as they face climate change

Supporting the Sahel's pastoralists as they face climate change Livestock farming provides a livelihood for more than **20 million people** in the Sahel, who migrate each year in search of water and pastures for their herds. The \$600 million Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Program is working to preserve pastoral systems in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. It focuses on improving natural resource management and animal health, mitigating conflicts, facilitating access to markets, enhancing economic and social inclusion, and strengthening institutional capacities including on crisis preparedness and response.

Since 2015, more than **2.8 million people** who depend mainly on pastoralism have benefited from this project. The project has improved animal health thanks to the construction and rehabilitation of more than 300 vaccination parks, and more than **200 million vaccinations** of animals have been carried out. Through this project, the World Bank is helping manage scarce natural resources, thus improving conditions for herders and their families: more than 6.5 million hectares of pastoral land were brought under sustainable management; and market access was enhanced with 89 markets, 39 slaughter areas, and processing units built or rehabilitated.



## Bringing dryland back to life in the Sahel

For several decades, the Sahel region has been facing seasonal climatic variations, with the populations suffering the adverse effects of recurrent droughts and floods. The **\$175 million** Sahel Irrigation Initiative Regional Support Project (SIIP) was designed to increase farmers' resilience to the effects of climate change, enhancing their agricultural productivity and pastoral activities, and significantly reducing their food insecurity. It covers six countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. The project helps countries implement ambitious irrigation programs using a regional approach focused on adapted solutions, a participatory process, and knowledge sharing. The resilient and cost-effective irrigation systems developed under the project offer great hope to communities struggling with climate shocks. By helping regreen more than **25,000 hectares** of land, it is improving the lives of 130,000 small holder farmers.

# TOWARDS A GREEN FUTURE

Together with countries and partners, the World Bank is scaling up climate-smart investments to make Western and Central African economies more resilient and inclusive in combating food insecurity. Time is to act now.





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## **#AfricaACTs ON FOOD SECURITY**

Stories that connect, inform and engage  
A campaign that promotes climate action

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