



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



# IMPROVING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA 2022



# THE WORLD BANK GROUP SUPPORTS SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA



“Our motto is *“People First”*: We commit to placing people at the forefront of our engagement with countries.” **Ousmane Diagana**, Vice President, Western and Central Africa, the World Bank

In fiscal year 2022<sup>1</sup>, the World Bank approved **\$12.6 billion** in lending to Western and Central Africa for **92 operations**, including **\$386 million** in IBRD<sup>2</sup> commitments and **\$12.2 billion** in IDA<sup>3</sup> commitments. More than half of these commitments went to countries affected by fragility, conflict, and violence. We also delivered **142 advisory services** and analytics products in fiscal year 2022.

## REGIONAL COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR FISCAL 2020–2022

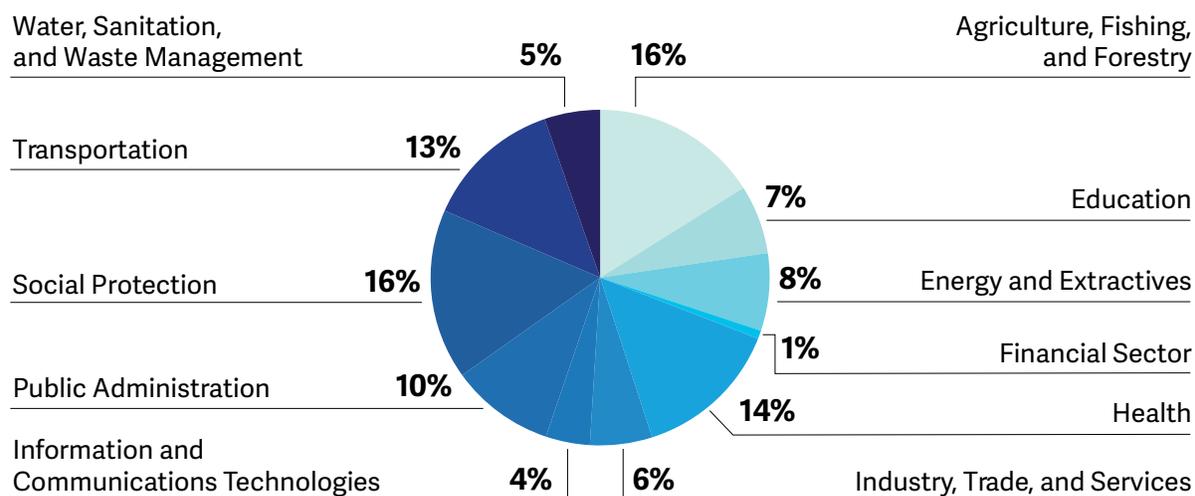
	COMMITMENTS (\$ MILLIONS)			DISBURSEMENTS (\$ MILLIONS)		
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY20	FY21	FY22
<b>IBRD</b>	9	500	386	155	132	261
<b>IDA</b>	9,514	10,955	12,213	5,469	6,045	6,544

Portfolio of operations under implementation as of June 30, 2022: \$50.3 billion.

To support countries facing economic shocks and recovering from the COVID-19 crisis, the World Bank is engaged in strengthening **governance**, bolstering **job creation** and **economic transformation**, improving **human capital**, **empowering women**, and boosting **climate resilience**. We also support recovery by investing in **health** and expanding **safety nets** for the region’s most vulnerable people.

## IBRD AND IDA LENDING BY SECTOR • FISCAL 2022

SHARE OF TOTAL OF \$12.6 BILLION



<sup>1</sup> July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

<sup>2</sup> The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is part of the World Bank Group

<sup>3</sup> The International Development Association (IDA) is part of the World Bank Group

# CREATING MARKETS FOR SMALL- HOLDER FARMERS in Mali



## Mali RESULTS

The project is financed through a \$30 million credit from IDA. It has also benefited from an IFC investment of Euros 1.5 million to the CEDIAM company, as well as the provision of technical assistance on international certifications needed for exporting (HACCP and ISO 2000). As a result, both CEDIAM and Laham Industries acquired these certifications.



Western and Central Africa

## BOOSTING ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

The **Mali Support to Agro-Industrial Competitiveness Project (PACAM)** has: (i) increased mango exports to international markets by 30.6 percent (37,420 tons as of 2022); (ii) connected production areas to markets, with 300 kilometers of rural roads rehabilitated, directly benefitting 70 villages by connecting them to larger markets; and (iii) provided matching grants to finance the construction of beef production infrastructure, such as animal housing and water points, the purchase of livestock and animal feed, as well as access to veterinary services in 2016-2021.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*“There are multiple benefits I have received from PACAM. It helped me acquire certification in mango processing, which considerably improved the quality of my products and shortened the production timeline. PACAM also facilitated access to new customers and new markets. This overall exposure has led to increased business,”* said **Mrs. Camara Tako Sylla**, mango processor.

## RESULTS BRIEF | May 17, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/17/afw-creating-markets-for-smallholder-farmers-in-mali](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/17/afw-creating-markets-for-smallholder-farmers-in-mali)

# EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH in Togo



## Togo RESULTS

The IDA financing amounted to \$15 million, of which over \$8 million was dedicated to providing employment through labor-intensive public works and micro-entrepreneurship training, \$2.5 million to income-generating activities, and \$1 million to grassroots management training for over 200 village development committees.



Western and Central Africa

## CREATING MORE AND BETTER JOBS

The **Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Youth** (Emplois des Jeunes Vulnérables, EJV) project provided short-term employment, micro-entrepreneurship training, and support for income-generating activities for more than 14,400 rural youth, 8,600 of whom were women, in 200 of the poorest communities in Togo in 2018-2021. The project put thousands of young Togolese on a strong pathway to sustainable livelihoods.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

**Madame Boukay Omorou** is one of project beneficiaries in the village of Sigbenga in northern Togo. During her 80-day participation in community service work and entrepreneurship training, she was able to save up to 40,000 West African francs (CFA). She also received a matching grant of 60,000 CFA from the project to start a business buying and selling cooking oil. Revenues from this activity help her to provide for her family. *“Before the program, my daily prayer was ... not to see a day when I cannot feed my children. Since I have been in the program, I am no longer afraid for the future,”* said **Boukay**.

## RESULTS BRIEF | May 16, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/16/afw-expanding-employment-opportunities-for-vulnerable-youth-in-togo](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/16/afw-expanding-employment-opportunities-for-vulnerable-youth-in-togo)

# RESPONDING TO THE FOOD CRISIS IN THE SAHEL

by Addressing Structural Challenges of the West African Food System



## Sahel Region RESULTS

In 2020-2022, the World Bank provided \$256 million to Burkina Faso, \$30 million to Chad, \$12.5 million to Mali, and \$61 million to Niger to support food system resilience and emergency response.



Western and Central Africa

### ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

Nearly 2 million people in the Sahel have benefitted from World Bank financing that provided emergency relief to support food and humanitarian assistance. In Burkina Faso, more than 93,000 vulnerable households received cash transfers. In Chad, 433,056 people received food rations and 20,000 vulnerable producers received seed and tillage equipment kits. In Mali, 700,000 people received food vouchers covering four months of basic food needs. In Niger, 73,500 people, including 32,500 women, were provided with temporary jobs through land restoration activities.

### VOICES FROM THE FIELD

**Amadou Diallo** is a pastoralist raising about 100 cows, goats, and sheep in Mali. During the 2020 lean season, he was forced to buy food for his family and fodder for his herd on the market, which had become increasingly expensive due to the COVID-19 crisis. *“I had to sell ten oxen to ensure the survival of the herd,”* said **Amadou**. In his village more than 100 vulnerable families received cash transfers. *“With this help, I bought food for my family for several weeks,”* he said.

### RESULTS BRIEF | May 15, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/15/afw-responding-to-the-food-crisis-in-the-sahel](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/15/afw-responding-to-the-food-crisis-in-the-sahel)

# HELPING CABO VERDE DELIVER COVID-19 VACCINES

## Cabo Verde RESULTS

In 2021-2022, the World Bank provided \$15 million from IDA to help Cabo Verde purchase and deploy vaccines for its people.



Western and Central Africa



## FIGHTING THE PANDEMIC

In Cabo Verde, the World Bank supported the government in delivering vaccines to people and helped the country launch a digital health pass, the NhaCard. This pass was designed to provide people with COVID-19 testing and vaccination certificates, as well as access to telemedicine and other health services. Thanks to a strong health system and a sound supply strategy, Cabo Verde became a model for the response to COVID-19 and vaccination campaigns. With 86 percent of adults fully vaccinated, it now has Sub-Saharan Africa's third highest rate of vaccination coverage, after the Seychelles and Mauritius.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

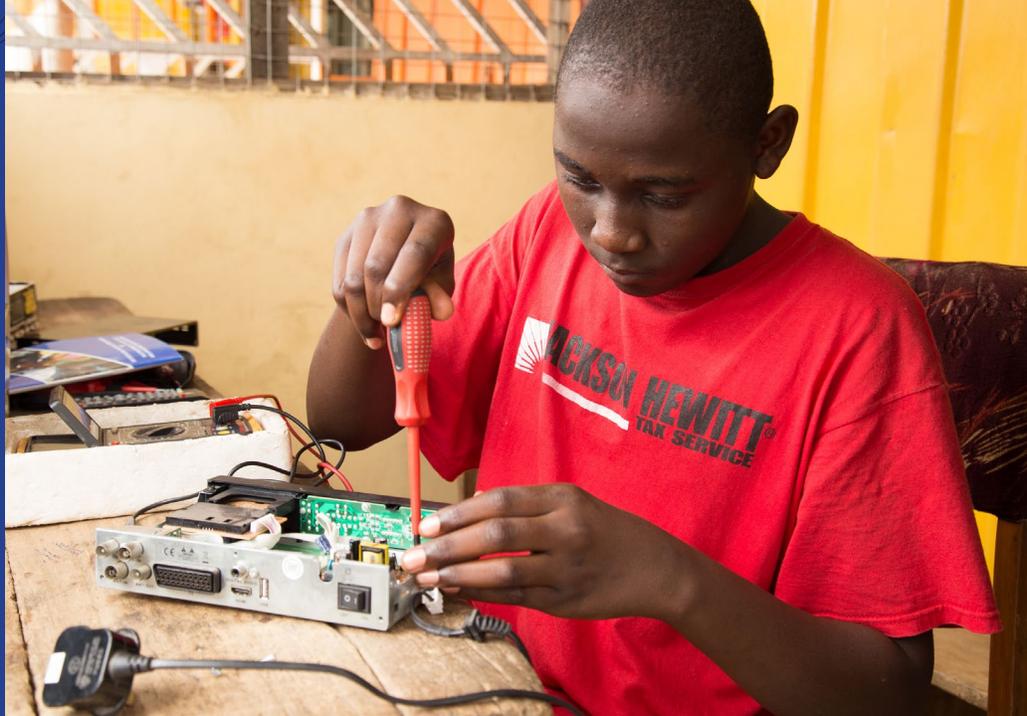
**Alice Bentoub** is a 44-year-old nurse, with more than 20 years of experience, all of it dedicated to the health of her community. **Alice** regularly tours the remote mountain villages in Cabo Verde to deliver lifesaving shots to residents in some of the most faraway places. *“As a health worker, you have to show ‘humanism,’ listen to people, respect them as human beings, and be sensitive to their point of view. You need to enter into their world to convince them and explain that vaccination saves lives,”* says **Alice**.

## RESULTS BRIEF | March 15, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2022/03/15/fighting-pandemic-down-to-last-mile-lessons-from-cabo-verde](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2022/03/15/fighting-pandemic-down-to-last-mile-lessons-from-cabo-verde)

# ONLINE EDUCATION FOR DELIVERING LEARNING OUTCOMES

During the COVID-19  
School Closure



## Ghana RESULTS

The GALOP was funded by IDA in the amount of \$150 million, as well as a Global Partnership for Education (GPE) grant of \$23.9 million. The GALOP additional financing consisted of COVID-19 Accelerated Financing in the amount of \$14.8 million from the GPE, as well as \$25.5 million from the Ghana Education Outcomes Fund. The government is also contributing \$4.5 million.



Western and Central Africa

## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

The [Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project \(GALOP\)](#) worked to avert a learning crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It supported the delivery of remote education to an estimated 4.45 million students, provided over 5.8 million children with daily school meals and sanitation kits, and helped to develop a Learning Management System for online learning. Additionally, the project supported safe school reopening and student reentry. The project was innovative in terms of the deployment of digital technologies in education. The use of such technologies is expected to now become a permanent part of Ghanaian education.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*“We know that one of the challenges in the country is the digital divide. Under the GALOP project, students who have a learning disability or hearing impairment were provided with pre-loaded tablets with digital versions of the programs,”* said **Dr. Kwabena Tandoh**, Deputy Director General, Ghana Education Service.

## RESULTS BRIEF | May 16, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/16/afw-ghana-online-education-for-delivering-learning-outcomes-during-the-covid-19-school-closure](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/16/afw-ghana-online-education-for-delivering-learning-outcomes-during-the-covid-19-school-closure)

# INCREASING ACCESS TO STABLE, RELIABLE, & AFFORDABLE ENERGY

for the Citizens of the Economic Community of West African States

## RESULTS West Africa Power Pool program

The project was supported by IDA grants totaling \$41.9 million, including \$16 million to Burkina Faso and a credit of \$25.9 million to Ghana.



Western and Central Africa



## STRENGTHENING SERVICE DELIVERY

As part of the [West Africa Power Pool program](#), the project for the construction of the Ghana-Burkina Faso Interconnector reduced the cost of electricity supply to Burkina Faso, and increased Ghana's electricity export capacity. The project helped achieve the following results:

- Average weighted annual cost of electricity supply in Burkina Faso was reduced from \$0.26 per kWh to \$0.20 per kWh
- Annual duration of outages in Burkina Faso due to generation capacity deficit/load shedding was reduced from 130.00 to 8.00
- Ghana's ability to export electricity increased by 200 MW

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*“The interconnection will diversify the imports sources of energy to Burkina and have a major impact on the quality of service provided by Société Nationale d’électricité du Burkina Faso. It will reduce the load shedding caused by the energy deficit and also reduce the cost of power supply,”* said **François De Salles Ouédraogo**, General Director of Société Nationale d’électricité du Burkina Faso (SONABEL).

## RESULTS BRIEF | January 5, 2021

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/01/05/increasing-access-to-stable-reliable-and-affordable-energy-for-the-citizens-of-the-economic-community-of-west-african-states](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/01/05/increasing-access-to-stable-reliable-and-affordable-energy-for-the-citizens-of-the-economic-community-of-west-african-states)

# ENHANCING YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

in the Republic of Congo



Republic of Congo

## RESULTS

The project received the IDA financing of \$10 million in 2013 and an additional \$15 million in 2020.



Western and Central Africa

## EMPOWERING YOUTH

The **Skills Development for Employability Project (PDCE)** increased the employability of out-of-school youth and supported small- and medium-sized enterprises by building a pool of skilled workers. The project trained 5,460 youth, 44 percent of whom were women; supported 3,000 youth through apprenticeships; and increased the variety of available professional trainings. Over 63 percent of men and 54 percent of women who were unemployed and out of school received training in market-relevant fields; as a result, they were able to find employment five to eight months after the training concluded. Under the Additional Financing, an additional 4,512 youth have begun to receive training.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

When **Edna Bamana** found out about the opportunities offered through the PDCE, she thought it was too good to be true. *“I doubted it, I was not sure it was for people like me, who have no other means, to benefit from this free training,”* recalls **Edna**, who is currently trained and employed in the plumbing trade.

## RESULTS BRIEF | July 11, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/07/11/afw-enhancing-youth-skills-development-and-employment-opportunities-in-the-republic-of-congo](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/07/11/afw-enhancing-youth-skills-development-and-employment-opportunities-in-the-republic-of-congo)

# SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & BUILDING RESILIENCE

in Burkina Faso



## Burkina Faso RESULTS

The project was financed by IDA for a total amount of \$120 million. Support to the IDPs was provided in close collaboration with the Burkina Faso Social Safety Net Project (\$166 million). The project provided complementary support for the preparation of the Community-Based Recovery and Stabilization Project for the Sahel (\$352.5 million). It also complemented the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Project (\$21.15 million).



Western and Central Africa

## STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

The World Bank's **Local Government Support, COVID-19 and Resilience Response Project** contributed to strengthening citizen engagement and public sector accountability, as well as supporting decentralization in the country. It played a vital role in supporting 423,521 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through the provision of essential household items, as well as by strengthening municipalities' capacities to mitigate the impact of the overlapping security and the COVID-19 crises.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*“By covering the recurring costs of communes, the project helped free up fiscal space and redirect 60-70 percent of investment resources toward priority development needs, including hydraulic facilities, access to water, agriculture and pastoralism,”* said **Aziz Diallo**, Mayor of Dori, Sahel region.

## RESULTS BRIEF | May 15, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/15/afw-supporting-local-governments-and-building-resilience-in-burkina-faso](https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/15/afw-supporting-local-governments-and-building-resilience-in-burkina-faso)

# ADVANCING DIGITAL ENTREPRE- NEURSHIP & FINANCIAL INCLUSION in Côte d'Ivoire



## Côte d'Ivoire RESULTS

The study was conducted under the Côte d'Ivoire Jobs and Economic Transformation Project that was approved in June 2021.



Western and Central Africa

### EMPOWERING WOMEN

In 2021, the World Bank conducted a study to assess the financial technology (Fintech) and digital financial services landscape in Côte d'Ivoire. The findings helped accelerate the work in improving access to finance for Fintech companies and identify gender and urban-rural gaps in the Fintech sector. The action plan laid out commitments to: (i) increase women's interests in technology-based financial products; (ii) integrate financial education modules in literacy curricula for women; (iii) sensitize rural populations in the use of Fintech services and products; and (iv) support the creation of incubators in each district of the country.

### VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*“As a female entrepreneur, I was pleased to have the opportunity to be part of the Regulatory Committee established by the Côte d'Ivoire Agency for Financial Inclusion (APIF) under this World Bank-supported initiative. The APIF is the first public institution to allow Fintechs in Côte d'Ivoire to have a voice. This initiative gathered key players of the financial services ecosystem, which jointly worked on a roadmap for Fintech development to accelerate innovation and financial access,”* said **Nadine Ebelle Kotto**, Chief Executive Officer of MQash.

### RESULTS BRIEF | July 11, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/07/11/afw-advancing-digital-entrepreneurship-and-financial-inclusion-in-cote-divoire](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/07/11/afw-advancing-digital-entrepreneurship-and-financial-inclusion-in-cote-divoire)

# AFRICA'S SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS & INNOVATION

in the Fight against  
COVID-19



## RESULTS

### Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence

The ACEGID received \$8.5 million under the Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence (ACE) Project and \$5 million under the Second ACE Impact Project funded from IDA.



Western and Central Africa

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE

The [Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence \(ACE\) projects](#) supported the Africa Higher Education Center of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) at the Redeemer's University in Nigeria in the development of new tools and counter measures for addressing wide-ranging public health challenges. From 2014 onward, the ACEGID has supported more than 500 local and regional postgraduate and short-term students, 33 percent of whom were female, from across Africa in key academic health fields. It has also provided extensive training to 489 students, healthcare professionals, and faculty members through its short-term courses.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*“My Master’s degree program at the ACEGID greatly impacted my life. It gave me access to world-class laboratory facilities, a conducive and enabling environment, and fantastic lecturers and researchers as mentors. For me, it was nothing short of a miracle, given the nature and challenges unique to our African environment. I was exposed to high-quality research and education right here at home, on African soil. I dare say that these trainings and exposure have completely empowered me and changed my life forever,”* said **Judith Uche Oguzie**, PhD Fellow.

## RESULTS BRIEF | July 14, 2021

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/07/14/africa-s-scientific-solutions-and-innovation-in-the-fight-against-covid-19](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/07/14/africa-s-scientific-solutions-and-innovation-in-the-fight-against-covid-19)

# PROVIDING EMERGENCY CASH TRANSFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS

in the Poorest 30 Districts  
in The Gambia during the  
COVID-19 Pandemic



## The Gambia RESULTS

IDA provided a \$30 million grant, of which \$10 million was used for the COVID-19 response through the Nafa Quick program.



Western and Central Africa

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE POOREST

As part of the Government's response to the negative economic effects resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Nutrition Agency quickly put in place basic delivery systems and provided support to over 78,000 households in 30 of the poorest districts in the country. This was implemented through a four-month, quasi-universal cash transfer program, the **Nafa Quick program**, from July through October 2020. The support helped families meet their basic needs during the lean season, which was coupled with the economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*"I am so happy for the money I have received because at the community level some vulnerable and voiceless women like myself are neither identified nor supported,"* said **Ms. Fanta Mam Baldeh**. She is a widow and a mother of eight who lives in Macca Masire in the Northern part of Upper River Region. Fanta used the money to buy food for the family and clothing for her children.

## RESULTS BRIEF | April 13, 2021

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/04/13/nafa-quick-providing-emergency-cash-transfers-to-households-in-the-poorest-30-districts-in-the-gambia-during-the-covid-1](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/04/13/nafa-quick-providing-emergency-cash-transfers-to-households-in-the-poorest-30-districts-in-the-gambia-during-the-covid-1)

# RAPID CASH ASSISTANCE TO GET THROUGH THE CRISIS



## COVID-19 RESULTS

The World Bank supported 29 COVID-related social protection and job interventions across the Western and Central Africa region for a total of \$1.7 billion from IDA in 2020-2021.



Western and Central Africa

### SAVING LIVES

Responding to the impacts of COVID-19 in Western and Central Africa, the World Bank has supported the rapid, large-scale roll-out of cash transfers and employment assistance to 19 countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. These World Bank-supported projects benefit about 50 million people, or 10 percent of the region's total population.

### VOICES FROM THE FIELD

In Sierra Leone, **Isatu Kamara**, a market trader in Freetown, mother of five children and her household's sole breadwinner, was one of the beneficiaries. During the crisis an unforeseen medical bill for her child exhausted her savings. *"This continued until the team from the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) visited the market to directly target beneficiaries. I qualified to receive Sierra Leonean leone (SLL) 1,309,000 (\$135). This was the turning point of my life. Now I have enough to continue doing my business and even expand it," Isatu said.*

### RESULTS BRIEF | July 13, 2021

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/07/13/rapid-cash-assistance-to-get-through-the-crisis](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/07/13/rapid-cash-assistance-to-get-through-the-crisis)

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM LEARNING LOSS

Sierra Leone's Experience with Distance Learning & Keeping All Students Safe



## Sierra Leone RESULTS

The FREE Project, a US\$50 million IDA grant, supported the initial implementation of the Government's COVID-19 education response. This has been supplemented by the World Bank's analytical and advisory support, including an Early Learning Platform (ELP), which supports a radio learning program for early childhood development, and an impact evaluation of technology-aided, teacher-student interactions during the COVID-19 crisis.



Western and Central Africa

### EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The World Bank's **Free Education (FREE) Project** protects children in Sierra Leone from learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic. The project provides distance learning to 1.4 million children, of which half are girls; sensitization campaigns regarding COVID-19 prevention, gender-responsiveness, and back-to-school arrangements; school safety protocols and psychosocial support guidelines to all of the 11,000 primary and secondary schools, as well as training for 22,000 teachers; hygiene and safety products for all 11,000 schools; annual School Census 2020; and a legal and policy framework to support the inclusion of all children in Sierra Leone.

### VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*“During COVID-19, we drew on the experience from the Ebola crisis by having School Safety Protocols in place and equipping schools with face masks, soaps, buckets, and infrared thermometers,”* said **Victor Marah**, Head Teacher of a Primary School.

### RESULTS BRIEF | March 17, 2021

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/03/17/protecting-children-from-learning-loss-sierra-leone-s-experience-with-distance-learning-and-keeping-all-students-safe](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/03/17/protecting-children-from-learning-loss-sierra-leone-s-experience-with-distance-learning-and-keeping-all-students-safe)

# BENIN'S ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



## Benin RESULTS

The World Bank has provided US\$42 million for the pandemic response in Benin. Large-scale technical and financial investments have significantly strengthened the Government's capacity to control the spread of the outbreak. These efforts have enabled Benin to mount one of the most effective responses in Sub-Saharan Africa in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.



## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HEALTH SERVICES

The World Bank has helped the Government of Benin in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting the country's response to public health emergencies. As a result, 13 functional laboratories are operating successfully where none existed before. In addition, 89 screening centers have been equipped, five treatment centers established, and free testing and treatment of patients made available in 2021. More than 581,843 persons have been tested and more than 7,510 patients treated. These achievements have encouraged the faster resumption of economic activities.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*“When we see what is happening around the world, we can be happy that Benin very quickly realized the seriousness of the situation and was able, thanks to partners such as the World Bank, to mobilize financial, technical and human resources for a rapid, organized, and effective response,”* said **Rodrigue Glèlè Aho**, Coordinator of the Epidemic Treatment Center at Allada Hospital, 50 kilometers from Cotonou.

## RESULTS BRIEF | May 14, 2021

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/05/14/benin-s-achievement-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/05/14/benin-s-achievement-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic)

# RESPONDING TO COVID-19 BY ADVANCING SOCIAL SAFETY NETS

in Liberia



## Liberia RESULTS

The project is financed by a \$10 million credit from IDA and co-financed by USAID (\$5.4 million) and the United Kingdom's FCDO (\$3.5 million). The project is scheduled to close in June 2023.



### HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE

As the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated poverty and threatened livelihoods in Liberia, this challenge spurred the expansion and digitization of the government's ongoing cash transfer program. The **Liberia Social Safety Nets Project** launched the government's first-ever urban cash transfer program. It provided emergency cash transfers for close to 15,000 households living in vulnerable communities in the Greater Monrovia area, which had recorded the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Liberia. These households received the cash transfers in their mobile wallet accounts. Up to 70 percent of cash recipients were women.

### VOICES FROM THE FIELD

*"When I received my cash transfer, I was very happy! Without the transfer, I wouldn't have started my dry goods business. Receiving this transfer made my dream come true,"* said **Verbah Howard**, who previously did not have a source of income.

### RESULTS BRIEF | May 10, 2022

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/10/afw-responding-to-covid-19-by-advancing-social-safety-nets-in-liberia](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2022/05/10/afw-responding-to-covid-19-by-advancing-social-safety-nets-in-liberia)

# RAPID RESULTS INITIATIVES IN NIGER:

Advancing Women's Health Outcomes



## Niger RESULTS

IDA provided \$103 million financing for this project.



Western and Central Africa

## IMPROVING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

The **Population and Health Support Project** in Niger provided reproductive health and nutrition services to over four million women and children in Dosso, Maradi, Tahoua, Tillabéri, and Zinder. This was achieved through the project's "Rapid Results Initiatives," which mobilized 944 multi-stakeholder teams throughout 53 districts and 836 health centers in 2018-2020. As a result, 922,013 infants were immunized against measles, 403,933 newborns were monitored with growth charts and nutritional counseling, 1,746,242 women and 99,741 girls started using modern contraceptives.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

**Alimatou Idrissa** has five children, which is on par with the national average of seven births per woman. She lives with her family in Birni (about 100 km southeast of the capital Niamey). **Idrissa** found a new perspective and support in caring for herself and her children. "I used to give birth at home," she says. "In case of a problem, I had no assistance. Since the project was set up, I give birth at the clinic, because I know that if there is a problem, I will be taken care of."

## RESULTS BRIEF | January 5, 2021

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/01/05/rapid-results-initiatives-in-niger-advancing-womens-health-outcomes](http://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/01/05/rapid-results-initiatives-in-niger-advancing-womens-health-outcomes)

# PRIORITIZING THE POOREST AND MOST VULNERABLE IN WEST AFRICA



## RESULTS West Africa Novissi

In Togo, IDA provided \$72 million to finance social protection delivery systems and equipment for the Novissi platform, which uses machine learning, geospatial analytics, and mobile phone metadata for the pandemic response. This is part of a \$400 million IDA program across six countries in West Africa.



Western and Central Africa

## BUILDING UP THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

The **Novissi platform** delivers contactless, emergency cash transfers based on machine learning techniques and mobile money. The poorest villages and neighborhoods are selected through high-resolution satellite imagery and nationally representative household consumption data. Within those areas, the poorest people are then prioritized through machine learning algorithms using mobile phone metadata and phone surveys. Novissi predicted consumption patterns for 5.7 million individuals, or 70 percent of population. In 2020-2021, 57,000 new beneficiaries were prioritized for contactless, social protection payments using predictive algorithms.

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

**Eric Dossekpli**, a farmer of the rural town of Anfoin Avele in Togo, struggled to sell his groundnuts, beans, maize, and cassava at the local market. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he could not earn enough to cover the basic needs of his family and tuition for his six children. Thanks to the GiveDirect-Novissi program's use of new techniques for prioritizing the poor and vulnerable, **Eric** was eligible for a cash transfer. *"I can't imagine how I was going to live if not for this money. All I can say is thanks,"* said **Eric**.

## RESULTS BRIEF | April 13, 2021

[www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/04/13/prioritizing-the-poorest-and-most-vulnerable-in-west-africa-togo-s-novissi-platform-for-social-protection-uses-machine-l](https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/04/13/prioritizing-the-poorest-and-most-vulnerable-in-west-africa-togo-s-novissi-platform-for-social-protection-uses-machine-l)

