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WEST AFRICA

Background

West Africa's humanitarian situation remains of deep concern. The region continues to be marked by complex and severe humanitarian crises, pushing hundreds of thousands of households into severe poverty. In 2010, the region was found to have the highest rates of under-five mortality in the world, which equates to approximately one-quarter of all child deaths. These dire conditions continue to be aggravated by poor nutrition and inadequate treatment of childhood disease.

Socio-economic and political shocks are also increasingly recurrent in West Africa. Most countries lack adequate capacity to respond to emergency situations, and in some cases have reduced coping capacities as a consequence of armed conflicts. Uncertainty surrounding the elections in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, as well as in other countries, has the potential to put large numbers of people at risk through unrest and displacement.

Climate change is posing an additional challenge to most countries in the region. Natural disasters have been increasing consistently over several years, with more than 1.45 million people in West Africa affected by floods in 2010, which represents a 90 percent increase compared with 2009.

It is critical that the international community remains focused on the West Africa region, where millions of people continue to be affected by extreme food insecurity and face significant difficulties re-establishing their livelihoods.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

Each year, the population of West Africa faces natural and socio-economic crises of varying intensity that affect the different livelihood zones. These shocks have led to a deterioration in household living conditions and a weakening of livelihoods, especially for families that depend on agriculture.

Food insecurity affected more than 10 million people in the Sahel in 2010, owing to the previous year's insufficient rainfall and the subsequent overall decline in cereal and fodder production in the region. The hardest hit was Niger, causing more than 7 million people to be food insecure. Burkina Faso, northeastern Mali, Chad and northern Nigeria were also seriously affected, and as a consequence, already-high malnutrition rates in the Sahel have exceeded the critical threshold levels.

The 2010 wet season has also caused damages to the agriculture and livestock sectors throughout the region as a result of flooding and the consequent loss of food, cash crops and livestock. A sudden increase in food and wheat prices during summer 2010 further eroded regional household purchasing power, particularly in countries in the

Gulf of Guinea where there has been increased price volatility. Given the overall situation in the region, external assistance will still be required in 2011 in order to meet the needs of the population and protect the livelihoods of vulnerable rural households.

FAO response

In 2011, FAO will work closely with WFP and UNICEF to reinforce the capacity of national and regional institutions to respond to emergencies. At regional level, FAO will continue to strengthen food security analysis by enhancing information sharing and coordinating with all relevant partners engaged in food security and nutrition activities. FAO's Subregional Emergency Office for West Africa and the Sahel will play a lead role in regional food security and nutrition coordination by defining joint regional response strategies; promoting an integrated approach to nutrition, food security and livelihoods; and reinforcing analytical capacity through national and regional early warning systems.

FAO is also appealing for funds to provide emergency assistance to vulnerable farmers affected by natural disasters and high food prices in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo. A coordinated and multi-pronged response is needed to tackle the emergency in its totality. In this regard, FAO will collaborate with partners to make timely decisions and take effective response actions.

In addition, animal diseases transmissible to humans remain a concern in West African countries and there is a need to strengthen surveillance systems to control major diseases. FAO is appealing for funds to protect the livelihoods of vulnerable herders by controlling animal diseases, and providing assistance to the targeted countries to enhance their basic services through input delivery, training and reinforcement of their technical and organizational capacities.



PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding requested: USD 24 725 312

Guinea - Support for the sustainable rehabilitation of productive capacities of rural and urban households affected by floods and pest infestations	
Objectives:	To sustainably improve the food security of vulnerable households and child nutritional status and to strengthen the capacities of the National Food Security Council for better preparedness and adequate humanitarian response.
Activities:	Distribute agricultural inputs (seed grain, fertilizer and tools) to 6 000 rural households during the rainy season and a similar set of inputs (vegetable seed, fertilizer and tools) to 4 000 rural and urban households for the 2011/12 off-season; train mothers of malnourished children through nutritional education; and prepare for, prevent and manage natural disasters and agricultural emergencies.
Beneficiaries:	84 000 people (including 7 400 women).
Implementing partners:	National NGOs, Department of Food and Nutrition, ANPROCA, Prefecture Department of Agriculture, HKI, ACF-Spain.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 302 049.

Côte d'Ivoire - Support to nutrition education and home gardening

Objectives:	To prevent malnutrition among vulnerable households.
Activities:	Identify the villages where malnutrition is high and the nutrition/feeding centres of reference and local partners able to support the activities; select approximately 20 villages; put in place demonstration vegetable gardens in the different villages; provide training sessions to CAHWs and staff of the nutrition centres; provide nutrition and hygiene education sessions, cooking demonstrations and gardening training to 4 000 caretakers of malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women and other women living in the community; distribute vegetable seeds and tools; provide mentoring to help beneficiaries to improve dietary diversity and child feeding; and monitor and evaluate activities.
Beneficiaries:	4 000 people (caretakers of malnourished children, pregnant women and mothers of children under five years of age in western and northern Côte d'Ivoire).
Implementing partners:	National Nutrition Programme (Ministry of Health), UN agencies, international and national NGOs (ACF).
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 523 684.

Côte d'Ivoire - Support to vulnerable food-insecure rural households affected by conflict

Objectives:	To enhance food security and sustainable livelihoods in areas affected by the crisis; reinforce the livelihoods of poor farmers through the introduction of small-scale income-generating activities; train and provide essential agricultural inputs to vulnerable farming households; and strengthen emergency food security coordination, through food security analysis, evaluation and mapping.
Activities:	Rehabilitate lowland areas for the cultivation of rice; provide agricultural inputs; train beneficiaries on agricultural techniques, nutrition and specific skills related to income-generating activities; support agricultural and food security information collection; coordinate and facilitate humanitarian and early recovery interventions in the agriculture sector; exchange and disseminate food security and nutrition information; work to enhance collaboration, create consensus among all actors and ensure rigorous analysis based on the validation of two cycles of the IPC; contribute to food security and nutrition assessments; and organize in-depth harvest evaluation missions.
Beneficiaries:	78 000 people (including 11 550 households and all actors engaged in food security and nutrition activities, along with the Government).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture (ANADER), NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 731 180.

Guinea Bissau - Emergency control of mango fruit flies and risk mitigation of contamination to cashew nuts

Objectives:	To reduce the damage caused by fruit flies to mango trees and prevent their spread to cashew nut trees.
Activities:	Identify the areas most affected by fruit flies; train trainers from the Plant Protection Services on improved techniques to reduce the impact of fruit flies; train 5 000 farmers on trapping techniques, prophylactic control and cultivation methods to reduce the proliferation of flies; supply and install 30 000 pheromone traps on 3 000 hectares of mango orchards; conduct technical follow-up operations; monitor catches in orchards and plots; and organize plantation tours and information campaigns through community radio.
Beneficiaries:	25 000 people (5 000 households).
Implementing partners:	The Government, Plant Protection Services.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 647 499.

Guinea Bissau - Improving food and nutrition security of HIV/AIDS-affected households

Objectives:	To strengthen food security for households affected by HIV/AIDS and recurrent economic and natural hazard shocks.
Activities:	Identify vulnerable households; purchase vegetable seeds and gardening tools; distribute agricultural inputs; provide training in agricultural techniques to improve productivity and cultivation practices; conduct training in basic nutrition; provide technical assistance; and monitor and evaluate activities.
Beneficiaries:	75 000 people.
Implementing partners:	National Secretariat for Fighting Against AIDS, NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 610 000.

Senegal - Emergency assistance to vulnerable households at risk of food insecurity and/or malnutrition affected by climatic shocks and economic crisis

Objectives:	To protect, restore and strengthen the livelihoods of the most vulnerable rural, peri-urban and urban households affected by food insecurity, malnutrition, natural hazards, and/or loss of purchasing power.
Activities:	Expand dry season gardening activities to increase the revenue of 2 500 households (priority to women and young vegetable producer group members) in areas affected by floods in 2010; support the preparation of the 2011/12 agricultural campaign through the timely provision of agricultural and other income-generating inputs to 15 000 households affected by the 2010 floods or highly vulnerable as a result of recurrent climate and socio-economic shocks; promote the development of horticulture in urban and peri-urban areas among 5 000 households; promote an integrated approach to food security, livelihoods and nutrition, including a training component; train beneficiaries on improved vegetable production techniques, preservation and use of vegetables and underutilized foods and nutritional education, including organizational management, small business and marketing skills; provide training in the DRM framework and its application to crises as well as climate change effects, and on diversified cropping systems and soil and water conservation techniques; target remuneration for the construction of material inputs, such as vegetable preservation/drying material and shelter for livestock (cash-for-work) for 2 500 vulnerable households.
Beneficiaries:	175 000 people (including 50 000 children and 28 000 women).
Implementing partners:	Local NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 666 500.

Burkina Faso - Emergency assistance to vulnerable farmers at risk of malnutrition, victims of, and particularly exposed to, high food prices and climatic hazards

Objectives:	To reinforce the livelihoods of the most vulnerable farming households, at risk of malnutrition, through support to food production and income-generation, and a special training element aiming to increase disaster preparedness and resilience.
Activities:	Provide quality crop and vegetable seeds, tools and fertilizers; train beneficiaries on agricultural and livestock production, nutritional education, and DRM; and provide a livestock kit including animals, animal feed and veterinary services.
Beneficiaries:	175 000 people (including 25 000 vulnerable farming households).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Livestock, NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 7 880 000.

Togo - Rehabilitation and sustainable livelihoods assistance for rural populations affected by floods in the southern region

Objectives:	To improve the food security and income of flood-affected households.
Activities:	Distribute 52 500 kg of improved seeds and 750 000 kg of fertilizer to 5 000 affected households; train beneficiaries and provide technical support in the use of improved seeds and fertilizers; and provide support to the commercialization of production.
Beneficiaries:	25 000 people (5 000 households).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Technical Advice Support Institute, national NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 610 400.

Mauritania - Emergency assistance to the population (farmers and livestock owners) affected by food insecurity

Objectives:	To improve food and nutrition security by contributing to a solid livelihood foundation that enables the vulnerable population to mitigate threats and vulnerability.
Activities:	Contribute to meet cereal seed needs: sorghum seed varieties and cowpea seeds for 12 000 households; support vegetable production through provision of seeds, materials, and protective equipment (fencing) to 12 000 households; help meet the needs of 36 000 households (livestock owners) by providing multivitamins, various vaccines, syringes and medication against enterotoxemia; and adapt baseline and follow-up surveys, using nutrition tools, to the context of Mauritania.
Beneficiaries:	300 000 people (including 180 000 children and 60 000 women).
Implementing partners:	MDR, NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 200 000.

Mali - Assisting and reducing the vulnerability of populations affected by drought and food insecurity in the northeastern region

Objectives:	To protect livelihoods and improve food security, while encouraging the recovery of economic activities in the aftermath of crises.
Activities:	Diversify and create income-generating activities; provide agricultural inputs, fertilizers, vaccines and animal fodder; and monitor and evaluate activities.
Beneficiaries:	15 000 people (including 5 000 women).
Implementing partners:	Commissariat for Food Security, National Directorate of Animal Production and Industries, international and national NGOs and associations.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 800 000.

Regional - Strengthening regional-level food security information analysis and coordination capacity and improving livelihoods through agriculture-based emergency response

Objectives:	To reinforce regional and national capacity to better respond to food insecurity and malnutrition through improved situation analysis and coordinated, concerted and timely actions in support of the livelihoods of vulnerable populations.
Activities:	Formulate strategies for a concerted and effective response to severe food insecurity of vulnerable groups; reinforce collaboration and coordination with regional partners to ensure that food security and the agriculture sector are considered in all phases of crisis preparedness, response, rehabilitation and transition to development activities (DRM cycle); sensitize FAO country offices and FAO's partners at the country and regional levels using an integrated food security, livelihoods and nutrition approach, including training and the production of training materials; provide technical support to the development and use of early warning systems and methodologies that ensure timely and quality information and that better track the food security, nutrition and vulnerability situation in assisted countries; undertake assessments and evaluations of the food security and nutrition situation in order to provide information and analysis for appropriate response actions; strengthen the capacity of FAO's country offices to prepare for and respond to food security and agricultural emergencies through knowledge sharing, technical support and training; document and share lessons learned and best practices on prevention, preparedness and response to food security and agricultural emergencies; support the restoration of the livelihoods of vulnerable households through the provision of inputs and alternative activities (conservation agriculture, cash transfer/cash-for-work, and the transformation and commercialization of agricultural products) in those countries where gaps in current programmes are identified.
Beneficiaries:	Governments and UN partners, donors, NGOs and vulnerable rural households, including children who are malnourished or at risk of malnutrition and women who are pregnant or lactating.
Implementing partners:	National and regional institutions, international and local NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 3 600 000.

Regional - Life-saving emergency assistance to control diseases occurring at animal-human interface

Objectives:	To protect the livelihoods of the vulnerable and public health through more effective control of priority animal diseases.
Activities:	Assist countries in the design and implementation of response activities to major animal disease outbreaks; reinforce early warning networks; provide material and equipment to the national veterinary services and laboratories; design biosecurity measures; support the development of communication material and undertake campaigns for public awareness; assist in assessing the impact of the target diseases on the local economies; and provide assistance to enhance local vaccine production capacity and ensure its quality control.
Beneficiaries:	1 500 000 rural households and stakeholders (including 400 000 livestock-keepers).
Implementing partners:	International, national and regional institutions, livestock sector organizations, NGOs and the concerned governments.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 2 000 000.

Regional - Regional emergency preparedness and response capacity development and support to humanitarian actors in West Africa

Objectives:	To reinforce the capacity of national actors and regional institutions while advocating for and demonstrating the value of emergency preparedness.
Activities:	Risk analysis and mapping; use of common assessment methodologies; define multihazard contingency plans; establish an early warning system for rapid and effective response; and integrate DRR and adaptation to climate change in the interventions.
Beneficiaries:	Governments, regional institutions (CILSS, ECOWAS), national and international organizations and UN agencies.
Implementing partners:	Regional Emergency Preparedness Task Force (FAO, IFRC, OCHA, OXFAM, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WV).
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 154 000.