

*“More than 139 million people
in West Africa live in
extreme poverty”*

West Africa

Background

More than 139 million people in West Africa live in extreme poverty, a population that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of widespread food insecurity, recurrent natural disasters, climate change, the global economic crisis and socio-political instabilities. Regional food security and nutrition indicators illustrate that many West Africans increasingly face restrictions in their livelihood options, thus inhibiting them from overcoming these challenges. Furthermore, global and acute malnutrition rates have reached serious and critical threshold levels in the majority of West African countries in recent years. In 2009, the overarching theme of the CAP was the soaring food price crisis and its consequences on vulnerable populations, which continue to have an impact throughout the region.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

Rural populations in some parts of West Africa were able to benefit from favourable rainfall patterns during the last year. However, many areas of the Eastern Sahel received insufficient rainfall in 2009, which has specifically impacted growing conditions for crops and deteriorated pastoral areas of Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger. Poor rains during the 2008 season had already led to a fodder deficit in the Niger, the continuation of which in 2009 has exacerbated the situation for agropastoralists. Nigeria, a key regional cereal supplier, was also affected by insufficient rainfall, the effects of which are a growing concern as the quantity of cereal produced in the country generally accounts for 50 to 60 percent of West African production.

As agricultural livelihoods in the Eastern Sahel were widely impacted by drought in 2009, the same year has been recorded as one of the most flood-affected years in recent decades for other parts of West Africa. As of September 2009, floods had affected 770 000 people and led to the loss of 193 lives in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

In addition to the various climatic disasters experienced within the last year, the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis have also considerably affected economies throughout the region. Agricultural export prices have dropped for key cash crops, while evidence indicates an ongoing decline in remittances throughout the region. Realigned exchange rates have impacted international and cross-border trade, causing further reductions in income-generating capacity and creating additional strains on livelihoods. Specifically, the depreciation of the Nigerian naira relative



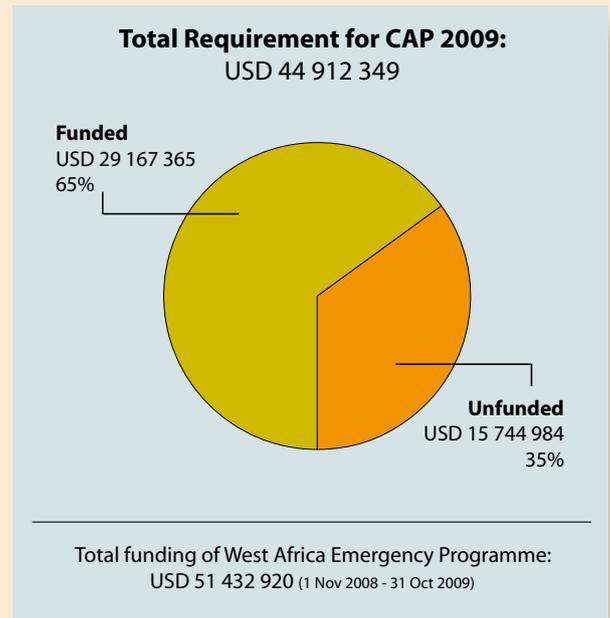
In Guinea, FAO intends to provide animal traction carts to those affected by floods and poverty.

to the *Communauté financière africaine* franc led to simultaneous reductions in demand for Sahelian livestock throughout the year. In the Niger, pastoralists' terms of trade are 26 percent below average. Assessments conducted in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea in 2009 indicated that food insecurity had increased particularly among farmers who grow cash crops, as well as those who rely on 'lean season crops' such as cashew and shea nuts.

FAO Response

In 2010, FAO and the WFP will lead the Food Security and Nutrition Cluster together, coordinating urgently needed assistance to prevent a further deterioration of livelihoods and food security, as well as building the capacity of people and governments to manage and overcome future shocks. At the regional level, FAO will aim to strengthen food security information analysis and coordination capacity, improve emergency preparedness and response capacity development and provide life-saving assistance to control diseases in 15 West African countries.

In addition to sector coordination responsibilities and the regional-level initiatives, FAO is appealing for funds to respond to specific needs identified in several countries. In Côte d'Ivoire, donor contributions will assist conflict-affected households through the establishment of income-generating activities, support to livelihoods and provision of inputs. Emergency support for rice farmers affected by the global food crisis will be provided in Liberia, while additional vulnerable farmers affected by high food prices will be assisted in Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo. FAO is also appealing for funds to support populations affected by climatic disasters (flood and/or drought) in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal. Additionally, in Guinea Bissau, FAO aims to collaborate with partners in support of pandemic influenza preparedness and control under the Health Cluster.



PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding requested: USD 35 878 906

Liberia – Emergency assistance for smallholder rice farmers vulnerable to the global food crises	
Objectives:	To provide emergency assistance to smallholder Liberian farmers affected by the global food crisis, compounded by the global economic crisis.
Activities:	Joint assessment and planning with the Government of Liberia; provide agricultural inputs; training of trainers and beneficiaries in best practices in rice production and integrated pest management; and monitoring and evaluation.
Beneficiaries:	52 000 farmers (27 000 women).
Implementing partners:	NGOs and Ministry of Agriculture.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 2 172 500.

Côte d’Ivoire – Support to nutrition and livelihoods of vulnerable households and communities	
Objectives:	To prevent malnutrition of vulnerable households.
Activities:	Establish demonstration vegetable gardens; provide nutrition and hygiene education sessions; provision of vegetable seeds and tools; and monitoring and evaluation.
Beneficiaries:	3 000 caretakers of children in nutrition centres in the west and north.
Implementing partners:	National Nutrition Program (Ministry of Health) and NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 396 998.

Côte d'Ivoire – Support for vulnerable rural households affected by the conflict through the establishment of income-generating activities, provision of agricultural inputs and support to the coordination of emergency agricultural operations

Objectives:	To enhance sustainable livelihoods in areas affected by the crisis.
Activities:	Reinforce the production capacity of vulnerable farmers through small community projects; provide agricultural inputs through grants or credit for the recovery of inputs; and strengthen emergency food security coordination through a food security analysis mechanism, food security evaluation and mapping.
Beneficiaries:	113 000 people, stakeholders in food security and nutrition activities and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture (ANADER), National Nutrition Programme (Ministry of Health), UN agencies and international and national NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 2 108 221.

The Niger – Support to vulnerable households affected by natural disaster

Objectives:	To strengthen the capital of the most vulnerable populations affected by slow and rapid onset emergencies.
Activities:	Provide crop and vegetable seeds, as well as fertilizer; rehabilitate small irrigated gardens; restore garden sites through cash-for-work activities; establish cereal banks; and provide training and technical assistance.
Beneficiaries:	700 000 people (including 364 000 women and 140 000 children).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agricultural Development and NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 7 200 000.

The Niger – Emergency assistance to the rehabilitation of sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable pastoralist households

Objectives:	To protect the capital of the most vulnerable stockbreeders affected by slow and rapid onset emergencies.
Activities:	Provide small ruminants to vulnerable and flood-affected households; promote animal destocking in large flocks; create animal feed banks; provide animal feed through public livestock services and animal feed banks; and restore deteriorated pastures.
Beneficiaries:	735 000 crisis-affected pastoralists (including 353 000 women and 132 000 children).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Livestock and Animal Industries, and international and local NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 5 780 000.

Burkina Faso – Emergency assistance to affected vulnerable farmers at risk of malnutrition and victims of high food prices and climatic hazards

Objectives:	To support food production and income-generating activities; and to assist rural and urban families at risk of malnutrition, particularly vulnerable women and children.
Activities:	Provide quality vegetable seeds and potatoes, as well as related tools and fertilizers; construct market gardening wells; provide small ruminants for reproduction, supplemented with feed and sanitary products; conduct vulnerability assessments; and training of beneficiaries.
Beneficiaries:	25 000 households (including children who are malnourished or at risk of malnutrition, as well as pregnant women).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic and Fisheries Resources, WFP, UNICEF, Red Cross, Hope 87, Christian Aid, Africare and CISV.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 6 967 000.

Guinea – Emergency assistance to victims of the floods and improved harmonization of emergency interventions conducted in the agriculture and food security sectors

Objectives:	To restore and enhance livelihoods of most vulnerable households severely affected by floods and poverty.
Activities:	Provide agricultural inputs (crop and vegetable seeds) and training to flood-affected households; provide animal traction carts to groups of producers; monitoring; and collection and dissemination of information to support humanitarian partners.
Beneficiaries:	50 000 people (20 000 women).
Implementing partners:	Guinean Red Cross, Ministry of Agriculture and NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 980 000.

Mauritania – Emergency assistance to the population (farmers and livestock owners) affected by drought and floods

Objectives:	To strengthen the livelihoods of the vulnerable farming households, in order to increase their agricultural and livestock production, as well as their incomes.
Activities:	Provide sorghum and cowpea seeds; support vegetable production through the provision of seeds, materials and protective equipment; and provide multi-vitamins, vaccines, syringes and medications for livestock owners.
Beneficiaries:	35 000 people (livestock owners and farmers).
Implementing partners:	MDR and NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 981 087.

Togo – Emergency assistance to the rehabilitation of sustainable livelihoods of rural populations affected by increased prices of staple food and agricultural inputs

Objectives:	To improve food security and income of vulnerable households.
Activities:	Provide seeds (maize and rice) and fertilizer; train beneficiaries and provide technical support; and support the commercialization of the production.
Beneficiaries:	5 000 farmers.
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Breeding and Fisheries, the Technical Advice Support Institute and national NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 1 601 600.

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 and/or loss of purchasing power.
Activities:	Expand dry-season gardening; train vegetable producer groups; provide seeds, fertilizer and other income-generating inputs; provide technical support to develop methodology for analysis of malnutrition research; and mainstream soil and water conservation techniques into all training components.
Beneficiaries:	245 000 people (35 000 households), including 40 000 women and 70 000 children.
Implementing partners:	Government ministries and international and local NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 2 117 500.

Guinea Bissau – Pandemic influenza preparedness and control for human health

Objectives:	To ensure appropriate pandemic influenza outbreak prevention and response.
Activities:	Support human health aspects of the project; training on risks of H5N1; strengthen national laboratory capacity to ensure early detection; and promote behaviour change for H5N1.
Beneficiaries:	1 548 159 people (the national population covered by effective emergency coordination capacity).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Guinea Bissau Red Cross and national NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 65 000.

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

Objectives:	To reinforce emergency preparedness and response capacity at country and regional levels and promote subregional preparedness planning processes.
Activities:	Risk analysis and mapping; pilot a socio-political early warning system; establish a regional multi-agency online platform; assess national emergency preparedness and response capacities; technical support missions and training; support interagency and national contingency planning; set up a roster of specialists; and organize a workshop for the strengthening of civil-military cooperation.
Beneficiaries:	Governments, regional institutions (CILSS, ECOWAS), international and national organizations and UN agencies.
Implementing partners:	Regional Emergency Preparedness Task Force (FAO, IFRC, OCHA, OXFAM, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and World Vision).
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 154 000.

Regional – Strengthening regional level food security information analysis and coordination capacity and improving agricultural based emergency responses

Objectives:	To reinforce regional and national contextual analysis.
Activities:	Identify and define strategies for rapid coordinated responses; support methodological developments to better track food security, nutrition and livelihood vulnerability; coordinate and participate in food security assessments; and provide agricultural and animal production inputs, as well as training, where gaps are identified through current programmes.
Beneficiaries:	Decision-makers in Governments, donors, UN partners, NGOs and vulnerable rural households.
Implementing partners:	Governments, national and regional institutions and international and local NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 3 355 000.

Regional – Life-saving emergency assistance to control diseases occurring at animal human interface in 15 West African countries

Objectives:	To protect the livelihoods of vulnerable populations by controlling animals diseases that are transmittable to humans.
Activities:	Reinforce early warning networks; provide material and equipment to national veterinary services and laboratories; enhance local vaccine production capacity; design biosecurity measures; assess disease impacts on local economies; and develop communication material to raise public awareness.
Beneficiaries:	1 500 000 vulnerable rural households, including 400 000 livestock keepers and the stakeholders along the value chain.
Implementing partners:	Governments, international organizations (OIE, WHO), national and regional institutions and NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 2 000 000.