

# Smart Protection from Climate Risks in the Sahel:

13.5M

Sahelians risk being pushed into poverty due to climate shocks by 2050

1.5x

faster is the rise of temperatures and extreme weather in the Sahel versus global trends

7–12%

expected GDP loss by 2050 in the region if no adaptation measures are taken

How do we accelerate responses to smartly support the poorest and most vulnerable in the Sahel? **Climate funds can turn resources into resilience via Adaptive Social Protection (ASP):** a combination of national safety nets, shock response, and productive inclusion programs.

## Three Adaptive Social Protection Features Make This Possible

### REACH

**Large footprint:** In 2023, 4.2 million people benefitted from regular safety nets, 1.2 million people from rapid shock-relief, and +100,000 households from productive inclusion programs.

**Targeted delivery:** ASP systems combine poverty, geographic, satellite-based and categorical criteria to prioritize the poorest and most vulnerable.

**Speedy and flexible response:** ASP can scale up swiftly, building on strong systems—over 25 million people are listed in social registries in 2025.

### EFFICIENCY

**Country ownership:** Anchored in national policies, ensuring sustainable resource allocation and interagency coordination.

**Transparency and accountability:** Support is efficiently directed to identified beneficiaries with digital payments and grievance mechanisms in place.

**Reduced fragmentation:** A platform to align partners and non-government programs, minimizing duplication and maximizing cost-effectiveness.

### IMPACT

**Holistic approach:** ASP integrates measures towards income support, climate adaptation, livelihood diversification, financial inclusion, food security, and human capital.

**High returns on investment:** ASP has strong impacts on the poor's resilience and productivity and the local economy: a 5-point drop in extreme poverty in rural Senegal, a doubling of the share of income from non-farm activities in Niger, a 46% increase in likelihood of investing in assets in Mali, and a \$1.30-2.50 lift in local incomes from each dollar invested.

**An engine for resilience:** Programs contribute to financial inclusion, an essential ingredient for long-term resilience and adaptation to climate change.

