

# The Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program (SASPP)

## Overview of a Multifaceted Partnership

### About

The Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program (SASPP) supports the design and implementation of adaptive social protection programs and systems in **Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal**, with a specific focus on climate change. The SASPP's strategic **objective is to systematically strengthen adaptive social protection systems** to enhance household resilience and expand the reach of shock-response cash transfer programs.

**The SASPP focuses on both regional and country-level activities.** The majority of SASPP financing is disbursed in the form of **direct grants to governments for piloting innovative adaptive social protection programs**. These programs are embedded in the ongoing World Bank projects supported by the International Development Association (IDA). The remaining resources are used for **technical assistance and for creating and disseminating knowledge and good practice lessons across the region**.

#### At country level, the focus is on the Adaptive Social Protection Building Blocks:

- **Programs and delivery systems:** Putting in place programs and systems responsive to shocks
- **Data and Information:** Ensuring information on household vulnerability informs ASP programs, including through dynamic social registries
- **Finance:** Putting in place risk financing strategies that promote proactive response planning to limit delays in response
- **Institutional arrangements and partnerships:** Supporting government leadership in the coordination of actors, based on clear articulation of roles and responsibilities

#### At regional level, the focus is on the following five thematic areas:

- **Poverty, vulnerability, and resilience:** Deepening the understanding of the nature of climate-related shocks and their impacts on poverty
- **Climate-shock responsive delivery systems:** Informing the design and supporting the delivery of shock-responsive social protection
- **Productive inclusion and women's empowerment:** Informing the design and implementation of new waves of economic inclusion interventions
- **Fragility and forced displacement:** Supporting social protection operations in navigating the increased fragility and forced displacement
- **ASP and Human Capital:** Understanding how programs can enhance investments in human capital and protect households from divestments in the face of climate shocks

### Donors & Partners

The program is funded by a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank (Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice). The donors are Denmark, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.



Our partner countries include Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.



## What we do

SASSP provides technical assistance, capacity building, and finances pilot interventions, including:

- ✓ **Adaptive safety nets programs** that help poor households meet basic needs and diversify their livelihoods and that can be easily scaled up to respond to shocks.
- ✓ **Productive inclusion** interventions (e.g., community savings, loan groups, or life skills and entrepreneurship training) for beneficiaries to reinforce their adaptive capabilities.
- ✓ **Delivery systems** (unique IDs, social registries, digital payments) as critical foundations for social safety nets to reach affected people.
- ✓ Early warning and **climate information systems** to design effective emergency response and adaptation programs.
- ✓ **Contingency (risk) financing mechanisms** to complement and support social protections systems.
- ✓ **Targeting mechanisms** to identify ex-ante those most vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change related risks, and quickly scale up a program in case of necessity.

## Our results

Since its inception, **the MDTF has allocated US\$165.45 million to investment projects** as part of IDA engagement. Key results include financing responses to various shocks – from COVID to droughts, floods, and population displacement – and supporting the establishment of core adaptive social protection systems that are critical to rapid and efficient responses to shocks. in the last years:

- ➔ **SASPP COVID-19 emergency support** reached almost 1.13 million households, as part of broader government responses.
- ➔ **As part of the response to the 2021 lean season**, SASPP financed the vertical expansion for 50,228 regular safety net beneficiary households in Burkina Faso (providing them with two additional monthly transfers household) and to 36,464 households in Mauritania.
- ➔ **In the context of the support to refugees**, SASPP supported the Government emergency response to provide assistance to 14,000 Cameroonian households, providing a one-time cash transfer to help improve access to food and other basic items.
- ➔ **As part of Governments' response to floods**, SASPP supported cash transfers to 13,200 households in Niger and over 6,000 households in Senegal, based on a rigorous assessment of damages and with a differentiated compensation depending on the inclusion of households in the national registry.
- ➔ **To contribute to the resilience of households to future shocks**, SASPP supported economic inclusion programs benefiting over 46,500 beneficiaries (30,000 of which women) and their households.
- ➔ **SASPP investments have contributed to the development of ASP systems**, ranging from improvements in social registries (which included over 2,750,000 households as of June 2022, equivalent to about half of the poor households in the region) to improvements in the payment systems (around 23 percent of which were mobile payments in 2022).

## Contact us

[saspp@worldbank.org](mailto:saspp@worldbank.org)