



Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 09-May-2022 | Report No: PIDC33448

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Western and Central Africa	Project ID P178132	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) - Phase 2 (P178132)
Region Western and Central Africa	Estimated Appraisal Date May 09, 2022	Estimated Board Date Jul 19, 2022	Practice Area (Lead) Agriculture and Food
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Ghana, Republic of Chad, Republic of Sierra Leone	Implementing Agency Ministry of Agriculture - Sierra Leone, Ministry of Agriculture - Chad, Ministry of Food and Agriculture - Ghana	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in participating countries.

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	315.00
Total Financing	315.00
of which IBRD/IDA	315.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS**World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	315.00
IDA Credit	180.00
IDA Grant	135.00



Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Substantial

Concept Review Decision

Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

- 1. West Africa is one of the world's most vulnerable regions due to its climatic, institutional, livelihood, social, economic, and environmental context.** This region is home to more than 360 million inhabitants, of whom 55 percent live in rural areas and depend on natural resources for their socio-economic development. Approximately 43 percent of West Africans live below the international poverty line, and most countries in the region are clustered at the very bottom of the human development rankings. Agriculture contributes 29 percent of the region's gross domestic product and is the principal livelihood for more than 60 percent of West Africans. Because the region is highly exposed to major climate, agricultural, and market risks, the performance of agriculture has historically been volatile, unleashing more frequent and worsening food crises. Phase II countries, Chad, Sierra Leone, and Ghana experience dramatic vulnerability. Poverty rates in each country are high, further constraining farmer resilience: in Chad 42 percent of the population lives below the international poverty line, in Sierra Leone it is 43 percent and in Ghana 25.5 percent. All three Phase II countries are sensitive to weather and price shocks, with agriculture primarily rain-fed and subject to erratic weather changes.
- 2. The increased incidence of conflict and fragility threatens human security in West Africa.** The past five years have been the most violent on record in West Africa, with over 12,000 conflict events and 50,000 fatalities, largely as a result of conflict in the central Sahel and the Lake Chad region. The 2019 World Bank Sahel Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment highlighted climate change as a key exacerbating factor of conflict, heightening risk factors associated with marginalization and exclusion of communities from access to basic services, justice and state representation at the local level. Together, these trends pose significant risks to human security. Moreover, in a context of rising armed conflict- itself linked to competition over natural resources - it could well contribute to rising levels of violence by, inter alia, increasing poverty, disrupting informal mechanisms that govern the sharing of scarce and common resources, and fueling grievances against governments and other groups.
- 3. Perpetual "shock-recovery-shock" cycles have become the norm across the region and seriously threaten its sustainable development.** Multiple shocks, driven by climate change and environmental degradation, markets, conflict and the implications of the COVID-19-induced health crisis, and most recently the war in Ukraine, have been costly for human welfare, making food scarcer and more expensive and raising malnutrition and food insecurity. The prevalence of undernourishment in West Africa increased continuously from 2010 and is at its record high with 75.2 million undernourished people (18.7 percent of the population) in Western Africa in 2020. In just one year from 2019 to 2020, it increased by 5.8 percentage points



corresponding to 24.6 million additional people, the highest increase in undernourishment world-wide. Food insecurity increased equally dramatically. West Africa is currently in its third consecutive year of food security crisis with 16.7 million people in urgent need of food assistance in 2020 and 27.1 million people in 2021. From June to August 2022, 33.4 million people are projected to be in crisis or worse.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

- Vulnerability has spread throughout the region as food system productivity has grown more slowly than the population, leading to a reduction in per capita food availability.** The population is growing at close to 3 percent per year and is projected to double to approximately 800 million people by 2050. While agriculture productivity grew quickly during the mid-1980s to 2010 and the supply of locally produced food increased from 1,700 to 2,400 kilocalories per person per day, the agricultural productivity growth has slowed to an average of 2 percent in recent years. Yield gaps between West Africa and other regions remain large. In Sierra Leone for example, yields of main crops are estimated to be about a third of their potential productivity levels, making the country unable to meet the local demand of its principal staple food (rice). Similarly, Ghana's average cereal yield is only about a quarter of the potential yield. As a result, Ghana remains a significant importer of ready-to-consume commodities such as rice. The agricultural output of Chad is highly volatile (standard deviation of six percentage points around the mean, compared to only 0.8 percentage points for Sub-Saharan Africa) oscillating widely between positive and negative growth.
- Multiple interacting factors are responsible for West Africa's worsening per capita calorie availability and deepening food insecurity.** They include (a) climate change; (b) environmental degradation, driven by population growth and intensifying competition over natural resources; (c) increasing incidence and severity of conflict and state fragility; (d) poor regional trade integration; (e) inefficiency of public expenditure (f) gender gaps; and (g) exogenous crises, like the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Relationship to CPF

- The FSRP aligns with key regional World Bank strategies:** FSRP supports Pillar 2 *Competitiveness and productivity* and Pillar 4 *Resilience to shocks* of the Africa Regional Integration and Cooperation Assistance Strategy (2018); directly contributes to the new FCV strategy's pillars of engagement #1 prevention and #3 transition out of fragility, the WBG Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan (2018), the Bank's Country Partnership Frameworks for participating countries (resilience); as well as being aligned with the upcoming new generation Africa Climate Change Business Plan (contributing to strategic directions I, II, V; and selected as a showcase project).
- The FSRP is aligned with key client strategies:** the Africa Union Agenda 2063; the Malabo Declaration on African Agriculture; the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP); the Regional Economic Communities Agriculture Policies (RCAPs such as ECOWAP-2025) and the Regional Agriculture and Nutrition Investment Plans (RANIPs), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) strategic plans of regional branches' (CORAF, ASARECA, CCARDESA), SAHEL/CILSS regional programs and partnerships. The program is developed under the umbrella of the Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue



(AU-WBG-FAO-ADB-IFAD, Kigali, 2019).

8. **The FSRP builds on extensive existing national level analytical work by the World Bank and other partners.** These include CAADP National Agriculture Investment Plans, which set out a development strategy for countries' agriculture sectors (all countries), climate smart agriculture profiles and investment plans that identify priority technologies and delivery channels to increase climate-smartness in the sector and AGIR¹ national resilience priorities, which contextualize within a multi-sectoral perspective and highlight relevant responses (Ghana, Chad and Sierra Leone).

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

To increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in participating countries.

Key Results (From PCN)

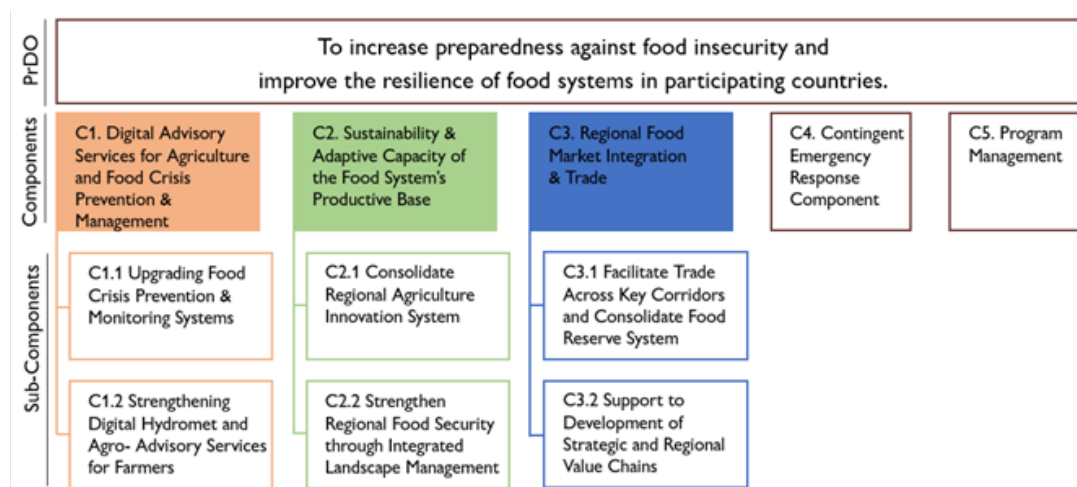
- Program beneficiaries (number and percentage of female beneficiaries)
- Reduction of food insecure people in program targeted areas (percentage)
- Food system actors accessing hydro and agrometeorological advisory services (number and percentage of female beneficiaries)
- Producers adopting CSA technologies and services (number and percentage of female beneficiaries)
- Surface area under integrated landscape management practices (ha)
- Share of intra-regionally traded production in selected value chains (percentage)

D. Concept Description

9. **The components for Phase II countries will remain the same as the Board Approved Phase I design. These are:** (i) Strengthening Digital Advisory Services for Regional Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention and Management; (ii) Sustainability and Adaptive Capacity of the Food System's Productive Base; (iii) Regional Food Market Integration and Trade; (iv) Contingency Emergency Response Component; and (v) Program Management. The MPA structure provides a flexible framework of potential activities that countries can choose to pursue, and the design balances the need for participating countries to make investments that activate regional mechanisms with the need of participating countries for interventions tailored to their circumstances. Country level design processes and consultations were carried out in Chad, Ghana and Sierra Leone to adapt the MPA structure to country needs. A summary of the components is included below.

Figure 1: Components and subcomponents of the West Africa Food System Resilience Program

¹ The Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR), is a framework that helps to foster improved synergy, coherence and effectiveness in support of resilience initiatives in the 17 West African and Sahelian countries.



Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The activities to be financed by the program are expected to have limited environmental and social impacts. Most of them are small-scale and intended to improve social cohesion and inclusion as well as support sustainable livelihoods in targeted areas. However, these activities may generate environmental and social risks related to irrigation, watershed management, water and sanitation infrastructure, value-chain development, labor risks (child and forced labor), physical and/or economic displacement, conflict, damage to personal property, labor influx risk including community health and safety in the form of potential SEA/SH and transmission of communicable diseases (such as COVID-19 and STDs/STIs). In Ghana, a dam safety assessment may be required during implementation following the results of irrigation technical assessments.

As the scope and exact sites of the infrastructure works and livelihood activities are not yet defined, a framework approach will be adopted to provide guidance on the preparation of the various instruments. This includes the preparation by each country of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will guide the preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/ Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs) for the subprojects. These will be prepared, reviewed and disclosed in all three countries and on the World Bank websites prior to appraisal.

Citizen engagement, grievance mechanisms are embedded in the project design and reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). To address gender gaps and enhance social inclusion in this regional program, specific gender actions are embedded in all project components and sub-components. A detailed Gender Action Plan (GAP) will be developed which identifies the concrete gender actions that will be implemented, monitored and budgeted for in each country and each institution's activity plans. Countries in West Africa are progressively narrowing gender gaps for women farmers in areas such as food insecurity and the uptake of improved agricultural practices and poverty rates, but progress is still limited and other areas show persistent gaps, in particular in the ownership of land and equipment, access to labor, quality inputs, finance and markets. The planned actions of the project aim to consolidate and further the progress made and address the barriers preventing women farmers' contributions to sustainable livelihoods and the quality of nutrition in their communities.



These ESMFs will incorporate the general and sector-specific environmental, health and safety guidelines (EHSGs), labor management procedures, SEA/SH mitigation, security management as well as proposed alternatives to direct supervision that will be required in case of restricted access to the project areas. The ESMPs will clearly define mitigation and management measures, including roles and responsibilities, schedule, costs, implementation procedures and incident reporting that are specific to each subproject.

For the regional institutions (the Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel - CILSS), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development - CORAF), ESMFs that have been prepared and disclosed under the first phase of this Program and validated by the Bank. These remain valid for this second phase as the institutional arrangements and components and activities remain unchanged.

During preparation, a SEA/H risk assessment will be undertaken and key mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project design and reflected in the ESIA/ESMPs. In Chad, security risk screening will be also completed and incorporated into the ESMP and will be used to inform project design and implementation support.

In Chad, the instability in the country presents risks for the implementation of project activities. In addition, tens of thousands of refugees have fled fighting in neighboring Central African Republic to settle in the southern part of the country. In addition, inter-community conflicts persist between different livelihood groups (pastoralists and farmers). The nature of the insecurity in some parts of the country is reflected in the insurgencies of armed groups over the years, violent crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, etc. These attacks have been reported in the southern part of the country (in potential project areas). Inter-community conflicts relate to the scarcity of natural resources such as water, vegetation cover, and land use.

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APPROVAL

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