



**FEED THE FUTURE**

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## **GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY**

### **WEST AFRICA REGIONAL PLAN**

**September 2019**

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## Acronyms

ARAA	Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food Security (under ECOWAS)
ACA	African Cashew Alliance
ADS	USAID's Automated Directives System
AfDB	African Development Bank
AfSTA-WA	African Seed Traders Association-West Africa
AFWA	African Water Association
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AGRA	Alliance for Green Revolution for Africa
AGRHYMET	Agriculture, Hydrology and Meteorology and Hydrology Research Center/ Centre Régional de Formation et d'Application en Agrométéorologie et Hydrologie Opérationnelle
AGIR	Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative
ARC	African Risk Capacity
ASIWA	Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa
AU	African Union
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter-State Bureau for Animal Resources
BFS	USAID Bureau of Food Security
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program
CH	<i>Cadre Harmonisé</i> , or Harmonized Framework for Identification of Risk Areas and Vulnerable Populations
CLA	Collaborative Learning and Adapting
CC IR	Cross-Cutting Intermediate Result
CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control
CET	Common External Tariff
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Comité Permanent Inter-États de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse dans la Sahel/ Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CORAF	Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour le Recherche et le Développement Agricoles/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
CONACILSS	CILSS National Committee
CRVA	Conflict, Risks and Vulnerability Assessment
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DCA	Development Credit Authority
DFC	United States International Development Finance Corporation
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
DO	Development Objective
ECOWAP	ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa

ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECDPM	European Centre for Development Policy Management
EFSR	ECOWAS Food Security Reserve
ETLS	ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme
EU	European Union
FAW	Fall armyworm ( <i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i> )
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEWSNet	USAID Famine Early Warning System Network
FFP	USAID Food for Peace
FTF	Feed the Future
FTF MYS	Feed the Future Multi-Year Strategy
GFSS	Global Food Security Strategy
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
GSA	Global Shea Alliance
HKI	Helen Keller International
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
INSAH	Institute of the Sahel for Agricultural Research
IR	Intermediate Result
J2SR	Journey to Self-Reliance
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MITA	Market of Innovations and Agricultural Technologies
NAIP-FSN	National Agriculture Investment Plans-Food Security and Nutrition
NARS	National Agriculture Research System
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTB	Non-Tariff Barriers
OFDA	USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
PAIRED	Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development in W. Africa
PREGEC	Regional System for Food Crisis Prevention and Management
RAIP-FSN	Regional Agriculture Investment Plan-Food Security and Nutrition
RDCS	USAID Regional Development Cooperation Strategy
REC	Regional Economic Community
REGO	USAID/West Africa Regional Economic Growth Office
RIGO	Regional Intergovernmental Organization
RPCA	Food Crisis Prevention Network in the Sahel and West Africa
SDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal

SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SRO	USAID Sahel Regional Office
STIP	Science, Technology, Innovation, Partnerships
TAD	Transboundary Animal Disease
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
T&I	Technologies and Innovations
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAID/WA	USAID West Africa Regional Mission
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
USGS	United States Geological Service
USTDA	United States Trade and Development Agency
USTR	United States Trade Representative
W-GDP	Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative
WAFA	West African Fertilizer Association
WAFF	West African Fertilizer Forum
WA-FTF	West Africa - Feed the Future
WAHO	West Africa Health Organization
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WAFP	West Africa Fertilizer Program
WASP	West Africa Seed Project
WASIX	West Africa Seed Information Exchange
WFP	United Nations World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
ZOI	FTF Zone of Influence

## Executive Summary

USAID/West Africa's Regional GFSS Plan (WA Regional Plan) covering 2019-2024 presents a five-year integrated Whole of Government strategy as required by the Global Food Security Act of 2016. This Regional Plan reflects an evidence-based, integrated, interagency and regional approach for West Africa to achieve the GFSS goal of reducing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition through the three objectives of sustainable agriculture-led growth, resilience, and nutrition while positioning the region and its Member States to become self-reliant. The Regional Plan incorporates input from regional partners, private sector, donors, development partners, bilateral USAID Missions, civil society and other stakeholders from the region. The Plan builds on lessons learned and successes under the Feed the Future (FTF) Multi-Year Strategy (FTF MYS) (2011-2017) and addresses some of the major constraints to improving food security, resilience and nutrition in the region.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), USAID/West Africa's primary corresponding Regional Economic Community (REC), with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) lead the regional integration process in West Africa and ECOWAS serves as the lead for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)/Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) process. The WA Regional Plan presented in this document aligns with the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP) and the Regional Agriculture Investment Plan-Food Security and Nutrition (RAIP-FSN). The National Agriculture Investment Plans-Food Security and Nutrition (NAIP-FSN) for the 15 countries in the region were developed with trained ECOWAS technical support to ensure that the documents conformed to the NEPAD/CAADP requirements and aligned with ECOWAP and the RAIP-FSN. USAID/WA provided financial support and participated in the reviews of the 15 NAIP-FSNs before they were submitted for ECOWAS approval.

This WA Regional Plan is being developed to support a region in transition. Regional GDP growth was strong from 2010-2015 (5.4%) but by 2016, it had fallen to a rate of 0.1%. There has been a relative decline in poverty rates between 1990 and 2015 and extreme poverty (less than USD 1.90/day) decreased from 55.4% to 43.8% over the same time period. This progress is overshadowed by an overall increase in the number of poor, as well as very high deprivation among the poorest. Sixty percent of the population is under the age of 25 and finding economic opportunities for the youth population is hampered by economies that, despite a decade of growth, have not generated job opportunities to absorb high numbers of youth. Globalization and information technologies/social media is transforming youth aspirations and hastening the rural to urban and transcontinental migration.

Women represent nearly half of the agricultural workers in Sub-Saharan Africa, however, their invisibility due to cultural bias in many places have deprived them of education and access to innovative technologies and finance. Gender disparities have negative impacts on household and community resilience and when coupled with the acute effects of climatic and environmental shocks, significantly undermine women's and children's food and nutrition security. Migration for employment is a key feature of youth mobility in West Africa, as individuals migrate in search of new job opportunities, and young women are increasingly joining the youth migration flows seeking employment opportunities abroad.

Violent extremism is spreading in West Africa, especially in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, resulting in widespread displacement of populations in the affected countries. In some cases, governments have declared a state of emergency that can disrupt production, trade and investment and movement across borders.

USAID/WA, working collaboratively and in partnership in the West Africa region with ECOWAS, its technical regional organizations, national governments, private sector, civil society and other donor partners, to facilitate a trade policy environment that stimulates increased trade volumes, attracts investment along value chains, and increases the availability of improved agricultural technologies and safe and nutritious foods. This expanded trade will increase competitiveness and opportunities for greater market shares generating higher incomes and reduce the level of volatility in national food markets. Expanded trade and market integration combined will increase the regional capacity to absorb supply and price shocks, and thus enhance the resilience of domestic food markets. Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led growth along with inclusive approaches to trade expansion lead to improved food security, increased employment opportunities (both off and on farm), and better poverty outcomes for vulnerable groups (including women and youth). Trade alone, however, cannot achieve GFSS objectives of strengthening resilience and improving nutrition particularly for the chronically food insecure. If the focus on inclusive trade and markets is coupled with sustainable natural resources management, climate smart technologies, sustained availability and use of climate information, insurance mechanisms, viable safety nets, strengthened surveillance, monitoring and response systems for food insecure populations, and for pests and diseases, then the West Africa region, will stand a greater chance of sustainably reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.

The development of the WA Regional Plan has been informed through close consultations with bilateral Missions in the region. The Regional Plan emphasizes strengthening the capacity of regional and national systems and institutions, influencing policy, and promoting regional and international trade and investment. It will support and complement bilateral programs and national governments to achieve national targets for reducing hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and building resilience. Investments to facilitate trade, stimulate and expand markets, promote private sector investments, manage risk, and harmonize policies will catalyze economic growth broadly throughout the region and provide economic opportunities for member countries.

# West Africa Regional GFSS Plan

## Introduction

The Global Food Security Strategy (GFSS) builds on U.S. Government (USG) investments under Feed the Future, and directly responds to and is the USG's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1 (ending poverty), and SDG 2 (ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture). The WA Regional Plan is a whole of government effort and takes a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to achieving its objectives.

The GFSS goal is to “reduce global hunger, malnutrition and poverty”. It is supported by interrelated and interdependent development objectives (DOs):

- Objective 1: Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth
- Objective 2: Strengthened resilience among people and systems
- Objective 3: A well-nourished population, especially among women and children

The WA Regional Plan 2019-2024 follows the FTF MYS and has been designed to align with the goal and objectives of the overall Global Food Security Strategy. The Regional Plan focuses on agricultural-led growth, building resilience, and promoting safe and nutritious food. The Regional Plan articulates how the next phase of FTF funding in the USAID West Africa FTF Program (WA-FTF) will contribute to GFSS objectives and the region's journey to self-reliance (J2SR). USAID/Washington guidance to regional USAID Missions distinguishes the unique role of regional missions from bilaterals, and stipulates four areas for regional missions to concentrate:

1. Focus on constraints that are inherently regional in nature, and address them by partnering with regional actors;
2. Continue to support regional economic communities (RECs), other regional intergovernmental organizations and Member States in harmonizing, domesticating, and implementing the regional integration agenda;
3. Collaborate, align with, support and leverage USAID bilateral GFSS programs to design and implement the Regional Plan for greater impact; and
4. Define specific verifiable contributions that regional investments will deliver and design the Plan to deliver these.

Like the FTF MYS, this WA Regional Plan will be an integral part of the Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCCS) 2015-2020. Specifically, the Regional Plan will contribute to the achievement of the RDCCS DO 2: *Broad-based Economic Growth and Resilience Advanced through Regional Partners*, focusing on regional integration (IR 2.1), regional trade and investment (IR 2.3) and sustainable agricultural productivity (IR 2.4). A new RDCCS will be developed in 2020 and the Regional Plan will be updated as necessary to ensure that it becomes an integral part of the next RDCCS as well.

The WA Regional Plan leverages the unique comparative advantages of regional approaches to addressing hunger, poverty and resilience in the region, and will harness the assets, skills, and financial resources of the private sector to drive development, and promote increased trade and investment between the U.S. and African partners to advance mutual prosperity. Through the Regional Plan, USAID/WA's regional partnerships will be leveraged to benefit bilateral Missions to increase access to markets, technologies, quality inputs, tools, and harmonized systems as well as best practices that will add value to bilateral Missions to achieve GFSS objectives in their respective countries. In partnership

with regional organizations, private sector, development partners, and USG agencies, the WA-FTF along with bilateral GFSS programs, will accelerate West Africa and its component nations towards self-reliance.

The major partners and stakeholders in the WA Regional Plan include USAID bilateral missions and offices, including the Sahel Regional Office; development partners in the region; ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and their Member States, and regional organizations such as Comité Permanent Inter-États de Lutte Contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel/ Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour le Recherche et le Développement Agricole/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), West African Health Organization (WAHO); and USG whole-of-mission and whole-of-government stakeholders. The Regional Plan will prioritize partnerships with African and international private sector businesses, including: input suppliers, processors/manufacturers, buyers, aggregators, trade logistics providers; advocacy and businesses associations; U.S. traders and investors; financial institutions/service providers; national and international research institutions and academia. See Stakeholders Table Annex 1.

## Guiding Principles

**Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR):** The WA Regional Plan is guided by the Agency Policy Framework and USG priorities. A key priority is the Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR). “USAID must, in each country in which we work, support greater self-reliance: a growing capacity to plan, finance, and implement development solutions, reinforced by a commitment to their openness, accountability, and inclusivity.”<sup>1</sup> By supporting ECOWAS’ regional integration agenda that will lead to national economic growth and self-reliance, the WA-FTF will contribute to U.S. national security priorities for the Africa region.

**Collaboration with bilateral GFSS programs:** The WA Regional Plan is designed to complement and support bilateral USG investments in the region. USAID/WA participated in all bilateral mission GFSS stakeholder meetings, provided input into the draft GFSS documents, and participated in Washington-bilateral Mission phone calls in the lead-up to and the final review of bilateral GFSS country plan documents. The Regional mission is committed to working with bilateral missions in Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal to ensure that the WA-FTF serves that purpose over the life of the Plan and adds value to their GFSS country programs to accelerate implementation on shared national priorities. Details of proposed areas of regional assistance and collaboration with USAID bilateral programs that resulted from several rounds of consultations are outlined in Annex 2. For the GFSS Aligned countries and the areas covered by the Sahel Regional Office such as Niger and Burkina Faso, USAID/WA is committed to linking regional partners, tools and support where there is an opportunity for partnership and/or leveraging value for impact.

The WA-FTF will enable bilateral missions to tap into USAID/WA’s partnerships. Some examples include: trade and private sector development to access the larger regional market; stimulate private sector multi-country sourcing and sales that could allow participation of countries with small volumes; increasing availability of finance for small and medium enterprises (SMEs); decreasing barriers to trade for the informal and small-scale traders; agricultural research through the work of the CORAF to build capacity of national agricultural research systems (NARS) and develop new technologies; sanitary and

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<sup>1</sup> USAID Policy Framework White Paper #2 (Draft - May 29, 2018), page 1.

phytosanitary harmonized standards that will improve trade and food quality; assistance in implementing harmonized standards; increase access to quality agricultural inputs in each Member State; capacity building for national governments with respect to NAIP-FSN implementation; access to tools such as the geospatial mapping of natural resources and climate information and for vulnerability surveillance; knowledge sharing and best practices to allow faster and broader scale up; and options for bilateral missions to buy into regional activities or access Regional GFSS resources.

**Collaboration with ECOWAS and its technical arms:** The journey to self-reliance is embedded in the process and content of the RAIP-FSN and NAIP-FSNs. An example of ECOWAS' demonstrated commitment to the principles of J2SR is reflected in the establishment of the ECOWAS Food Security Reserve that should reduce their dependence on donor-provided food aid as the first line of emergency response. The WA-FTF is committed to support West African regional institutions, private sector and other non-state actors as they move along the continuum in their efforts to promote resilience and inclusive economic growth.

**Collaboration with the West African private sector:** USAID/WA GFSS efforts will embrace private sector-led and market-based approaches to agriculture-related trade and investment. In accordance with the **USAID Private Sector Engagement Policy**, the WA-FTF will play an important facilitative/catalytic role in identifying key private sector actors, convening partners, and facilitating regional investment and market opportunities.

Key facilitative roles will include:

- Increasing outreach to regional and multinational companies and investors;
- Building and strengthening private sector partnerships;
- Increasing regional value-addition to agricultural products;
- Support U.S. investment across the region, improve the business climate, and accelerate the growth of West Africa's middle class;
- Supporting transformative investments (for example, those that have large-scale impact and increase market system benefits for poverty reduction); and
- Improving connectivity and leveraging other USG agencies active in trade, including Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Commerce, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to advance shared priorities.

**Women and youth:** USAID/WA will support the Agency's priorities on empowering women and youth, in alignment with the **Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018 (WEEE)** and the Agency's Youth in Development policy and taking advantage of the **Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP)** to form partnerships that expand women's access to markets, capital, and business development training. The WA-FTF will support ECOWAS to build Member States' capacity to design and implement programs that will address aspirations of and empower women and youth and ensure women's and youth's full participation in development programs. The Plan will support regional and national efforts to establish and disseminate best practices for combating inequalities that affect women's and youth's equitable access to natural resources, agricultural technologies, markets and finance, and supporting services. The Regional Plan has a cross-cutting intermediate result on gender and youth which will be used to identify and support a more inclusive plan of action that reaches marginalized populations. USAID/WA, working collaboratively with its implementing partners will use its learning approaches and convening authority to share information

on best practices and approaches for prioritizing activities that are inclusive and provide opportunities for women and youth to change their socio-economic status in the region.

**Prosper Africa:** The WA-FTF will support Prosper Africa’s mandate to promote increased trade and investment between the U.S. and West African businesses to advance mutual prosperity. By supporting adherence to regional and international trade policies, agreements and regulations (including Common External Tariff (CET), World Trade Organization (WTO), African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), etc.), GFSS investments in the region will promote a more predictable, transparent and enabling business environment in West Africa. This will contribute to making the region a more attractive investment destination for U.S. and multinational investors and companies/retailers that source and distribute products across from multiple countries in the region. It will also advance J2SR priorities by working with the private sector to implement outcome-oriented programs that will increase bilateral trade and investment between the U.S. and West African states. The WA-FTF will support ECOWAS’ regional integration agenda that will lead to economic growth and self-reliance, thereby contributing to U.S. national security priorities for the Africa region.

**Whole of Government approach:** The WA-FTF will draw on the skills and resources of the broader USG to address challenges and achieve greater impact in key areas of this strategy. Existing and potential sectors for collaboration include: NASA and USGS’ expertise in geospatial products; Millennium Challenge Corporation (agriculture inputs and resilience); USTR, USDA, Department of Commerce, State Department, USTDA and DFC for trade, finance and investment; USDA expertise in design and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulatory systems and standards; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for expertise on methodologies for collection of data on micronutrients; and State Department for high-level policy dialogue with USG and West African regional organizations. (See Annex 1 for details).

## Background

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), USAID/West Africa’s primary corresponding Regional Economic Community (REC), was founded to promote cooperation and integration of 15<sup>2</sup> Member States in West Africa to improve living standards and enhance economic stability by improving strategies and policies that are subsequently harmonized and implemented by Member States across the region. ECOWAS serves as the lead for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)/Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) process. The GFSS strategy presented in this document aligns with the ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policy for West Africa (ECOWAP) and the RAIP-FSN. The NAIP-FSN for the 15 Countries in the region were developed with trained ECOWAS technical support to ensure that the documents conformed with the NEPAD/CAADP requirements and aligned with ECOWAP and the RAIP. USAID/WA provided financial support and participated in the reviews of the 15 NAIP-FSNs before they were submitted for ECOWAS approval.

ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) lead the regional integration process in West Africa. ECOWAS works with and through specialized technical agencies and sub-regional institutions (e.g. CILSS, CORAF, WAHO). The regional integration agenda includes a strong focus on the agricultural sector due to its critical role in regional stability, poverty reduction, and growth prospects for the Member States.

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<sup>2</sup> In some cases, such as the Cadre Harmonisé, ECOWAS includes the non-Member States of Mauritania and Chad, thus covering 17 countries in West Africa.

Most of the 15 ECOWAS countries experienced a relative decline in poverty rates over the 1990-2015 period,<sup>3</sup> and extreme poverty (less than USD 1.90/day) decreased from 55.4% to 43.8% over the same time period. However, this relative decline in poverty hides an overall increase in the number of poor, as well as very high deprivation among the poorest.

An estimated 55% of ECOWAS' 350 million inhabitants live in rural areas. Urban population is projected to grow to 63% by 2050,<sup>4</sup> making West Africa the most urbanized region in Sub-Saharan Africa. Some 60% of the population is under 25 years of age.<sup>5</sup> West Africa's youth bulge is expected to grow through 2035 and plateau around 2050.<sup>6</sup> The emerging middle class in the region now stands at 70 million people. Along with rapid urbanization, economic growth, and the growing middle class in West Africa, food demand is rapidly transforming.

From 2010-2014, West African countries experienced strong economic growth (annual GDP growth was 5.46% on average). By 2016, growth fell sharply from 4.4% in 2015 to 0.1% in 2016.<sup>7</sup> Economic performance has been driven mainly by growing domestic demand, robust foreign investment, favorable commodity prices, and somewhat improved economic governance (Africa Progress, 2015).<sup>8</sup> West Africa's GDP growth was projected to increase to about 3.1% in 2017 and 4.1% in 2018, boosted mainly by an improving economic performance in Nigeria,<sup>9</sup> whose economy dwarfs the rest of the region. Wide disparities exist among the ECOWAS countries' economies. Nigeria achieved a GDP of \$575.8 billion<sup>10</sup> in 2017, 10 times the GDP of the region's second largest economy, Ghana (\$47.33 billion). Cabo Verde has the region's highest GDP per capita, at \$3,294, with Nigeria the second highest at \$1,991; Niger has the lowest at \$377.<sup>11</sup>

Gender and youth inclusion in sustainable economic growth is a major challenge for the region. The magnitude of the challenge is yet to be understood. Women represent nearly half of the agricultural workers in Sub-Saharan Africa, however, their productivity per hectare is significantly lower than that of men<sup>12</sup>, due to their lack of access to information, innovative technologies, finance and factors of production resulting from cultural bias, lack of education and the invisibility of women. Gender disparities have negative impacts on household and community resilience as women are responsible for production and marketing of food commodities, family food preparation and consumption, family and community health, and education of children. These disparities coupled with the acute effects of climatic, environmental and market shocks significantly undermine women's and children's food and nutrition security.

Finding economic opportunities for the youth population is hampered by economies that, despite a decade of growth, have not generated job opportunities to absorb high numbers of youth. Perhaps even

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<sup>3</sup> AU/OECD 2018 Africa's Development Dynamics 2018, Growth, Jobs and Inequalities - p. 190 -200  
<http://www.oecd.org/publications/africa-s-development-dynamics-2018-9789264302501-en.htm>

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division 2014

<sup>5</sup> de Verdière et al., 2009; Hervish and Clifton, 2012.

<sup>6</sup> Quoted from Francis Fortune, Olawale Ismail, and Monica Stephen. 2015. Rethinking Youth, Livelihoods, and Fragility in West Africa: One Size Doesn't Fit All. World Bank

<sup>7</sup> UNECA. 2017. Economic Report on Africa. (Note: 2018 Report not yet available)

<sup>8</sup> Power, People, Planet: Seizing Africa's Energy and Climate Opportunities. 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> According to World Bank Data, oil represented 6.1% of GDP in 2017, up from 2.8% in 2016.  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PETR.RT.ZS?locations=NG>

<sup>11</sup> <https://countryeconomy.com/countries/groups/economic-community-west-african-states>

<sup>12</sup> World Bank 2014

more important is that globalization and information technologies/social media have helped to transform the character of youth aspirations, increasing the gap between young peoples' hopes and the realities in their communities,<sup>4</sup> and has expanded the intergenerational gap. Policy makers have put their hopes in the agricultural sector to provide opportunities for the young generation, driving investment in upgrading agriculture. Yet agriculture has increasingly become a less attractive sector for youth. Similarly, investment in the education sector has not been matched to the demands of the economy and labor markets. Migration for employment is a key feature of youth mobility in West and Central Africa, as individuals migrate in search of new job opportunities, to improve their social status and to learn new skills and trades. Moreover, young women are increasingly represented among youth migration flows seeking employment opportunities abroad.

Youth livelihoods are commonly rooted in the informal sector. They face similar challenges as women in finding remunerative activities/employment on and off-farm, including poor levels of education, insufficient access to knowledge and research outputs, information, land, capital, and markets. There are limited opportunities for skills acquisition and minimal participation in policy dialogues. These challenges are important barriers to harnessing youth's energies to enable them to startup businesses and create jobs and wealth.

Violent extremism is spreading in West Africa, especially in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, causing widespread displacement of populations in the affected countries. In some cases, governments have declared a state of emergency that can disrupt trade and investment and movement across borders. This has knock-on effects on the economic growth of countries. The most common grievances driving individuals to join VE groups, according to the analyses<sup>13</sup> conducted for USAID/WA and USAID/Sahel Regional Office joint strategic planning process, are divided into three broad categories: **lack of economic opportunity exacerbated by multidimensional poverty, weak governance, and a youth population in the Sahel that lacks basic life skills and education that can help them during various phases of their life.**

## USAID/West Africa Accomplishments

### Agricultural Trade and Markets

A USAID-funded trade data monitoring program provides contextual data on regional trade and reported a steady increase of intra-regional agricultural trade in West Africa. The value of agricultural trade within ECOWAS grew by an average annual rate of 12% from 1998 to 2013 with an accelerated trend of 21% annual growth for the period 2007-2013 (from \$494 million to \$2.84 billion).<sup>14</sup>

- ECOWAS is advancing regional trade integration through improved implementation of the regional free trade area, common external tariff (CET), and improved movement of goods along key regional trade corridors. For example, USAID/WA worked with six Member States to abolish certificates of origin and supported ECOWAS to establish a high-level task force to monitor implementation and report to Member States on progress.
- The West Africa Trade and Investment Hub (2014-2018) facilitated regional and international trade, generating \$174 million in new sales, \$136 million in exports, \$97 million in new investment in the agricultural sector, and 20,000 new jobs.

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<sup>13</sup> UNDP <http://journey-to-extremism.undp.org/content/downloads/UNDP-JourneyToExtremism-report-2017-english.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Africa Agricultural Trade Monitor 2018 <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/africa-agriculture-trade-monitor-2018>

- USAID/WA's support to the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) advanced a new regional public-private partnership model that has supported the construction of over 70 warehouses to date, benefitting almost 30,000 women and supporting approximately \$100 million in exports. The continuing program anticipates supporting more than 137,000 women shea producers to increase their incomes.

### **Agricultural Inputs**

#### *USAID/WA's West Africa Seed Project (WASP) from 2012 – 2017:*

- Supported CORAF to work with the national research networks to introduce new varieties of rice (22), maize (60), cowpeas (8), sorghum (9), and groundnuts (11) for use by private and public channels and onward distribution. These seed varieties will be scaled under the USAID funded Partnership for Agricultural Research, Education and Development in W. Africa (PAIRED) project.
- Promoted climate-smart agricultural (CSA) technologies and practices and developed a host of partnerships with National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS), value chain actors, and other development partners to scale impact.
- Enabled CORAF to facilitate the production and distribution of 56,322 metric tons (mt) of certified seeds, 7,448 mt of foundation seeds, and 248 mt of breeder seeds.
- Implemented regional seed regulations in 12 countries. FTF also supported the establishment of the Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA) and the West African chapter of the African Seed Trade Association (AfSTA).
- Developed a Regional Seed Catalogue and an electronic seed trading platform (West Africa Seed Information Exchange, WASIX) to facilitate regional seed trade.
- Developed a tool for forecasting seed demand to enable research centers and private sector seed breeders to respond in time with sufficient supply of quality seed.

#### *USAID/WA's West Africa Fertilizer Program (WAFP) from 2012 – 2017:*

- Mobilized private sector firms and facilitated the implementation of harmonized fertilizer quality standards and formulations. WAFP mapped fertilizer formulas to agro-ecological zones to improve the efficacy of fertilizer applications. These actions have stimulated increased private sector investment in West Africa's fertilizer industry.
- Supported the establishment of the West African Fertilizer Association (WAFA), comprised of more than 32 key private sector fertilizer firms doing business in the region.
- Increased private sector investments in the fertilizer sector in 2017 by \$41.5 million. Of this \$41.5 million, the West Africa Fertilizer Forum (WAFF) generated business deals among members of the West African Fertilizer Association (WAFA) and partners worth \$20 million in non-capital and \$15 million in capital investments.
- Facilitated links between importers and manufacturers and provided fertilizer market and trade information to over 3,300 fertilizer stakeholders between FY 2016 and 2017.
- Standardized fertilizer regulations for fertilizer quality control were implemented by 12 of 15 ECOWAS countries, paving the way for increasing fertilizer trade and availability of quality fertilizer in the region.
- Empowered the private sector-led fertilizer industry by promoting sustainable business development models and market information and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders.
- Mapped fertilizer subsidy programs in West Africa and identified best practices that would minimize market distortions of subsidized fertilizer. These best practices were presented to ECOWAS for review and future application.

## Nutrition

With USAID/WA support:

- Fourteen of the 15 member countries have adopted mandatory legislation for fortified wheat flour, and 13 countries for vegetable oil and iodized salt, using ECOWAS harmonized standards.
- More than 130 industries are now fortifying vegetable oil and wheat flour, with enough fortified food to meet the daily needs of nearly 300 million people.
- Progress in reinforcing quality control to ensure industry compliance with fortification standards and ensuring that regulatory bodies are monitoring and enforcing compliance.
- CORAF's work through the West Africa Seed Program (WASP) helped increase crop yields between 30% for cereals and 150% for rice, fruit, and tubers. By so doing, the WASP had a considerable impact on food security and caloric intake. Caloric consumption rose from 2,777 to 2,964 kcals and the "hunger period" reduced by 28% to 55% according to the commodity.
- The new varieties of millet, sorghum, rice and maize introduced under WASP are high yielding, short-cycle, drought tolerant and biofortified or nutrient-rich and will be prime choices for scaling with the objective of helping the region address its food security and nutrition needs.
- USAID/WA's West Africa Water Sanitation and Hygiene Program (WA-WASH) focused on market-based approaches to provide low-cost water and sanitation technologies, promote hygienic practices, and foster sustainable service delivery. As a result of this activity, 80,309 people intervention areas have access to an improved drinking water source, 33,994 have access to an improved sanitation facility.<sup>15</sup>

## Strengthened resilience of West African systems

WA-FTF support resulted in:

- Strengthened regional governance system for food and nutrition security and resilience, with improved coordination mechanisms and processes through the Regional System for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (PREGEC). The Cadre Harmonisé (Harmonized Framework for Identification of Risk Areas and Vulnerable Populations) tool<sup>16</sup> is used across the 17 countries in West Africa for monitoring acute food insecurity data to inform emergency response.
- The development of the framework for the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) by the Club du Sahel and West Africa provides a shared understanding of the region's food and nutrition situation, informs food and nutrition security & resilience interventions, and provides examples of resilience best practices.
- The development of national resilience plans (AGIR's National Priority Plans (PRPs)) in West Africa, and support for the integration of these plans into the second generation of the NAIP-FSNs.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://dpanther.fiu.edu/wawashReporting/ReportingIndicators.aspx?projID=1> Data from WA-WASH project for period 2011-2017.

<sup>16</sup> The "Cadre Harmonisé" is used for the identification of risk areas and vulnerable populations and is the current regional framework aimed at preventing food crises by forecasting needs among affected populations, allowing governments and humanitarian actors to offer appropriate responses to improve their food and nutrition security. This analysis uses food and nutrition security outcome indicators corroborated by relevant contributing factors to identify the food and nutrition insecure areas.

- The development of a comprehensive database of climate smart technologies and practices provides examples of best practices for strengthening resilience to food and nutrition insecurity.<sup>17</sup>
- The development of a demand-driven system that produces geospatial images and maps that can be used to locate ephemeral bodies of water, illegal practices (charcoal production, artisanal mining), and water sources in the arid pastoral areas of the Sahel through the CILSS/AGRHYMET/NASA<sup>18</sup> partnership. The information is used by national government institutions, universities, farmer and pastoral groups, NGOs, radio stations and development partners who can use it to make decisions about the productive and sustainable use of land and water resources. This complements United States Geological Service (USGS) work supported by USAID/WA and the Sahel Regional Office to analyze land use and land cover change across West Africa, with detail for the Sahel.
- Development and implementation of an ECOWAS-led system to mobilize and transport West African-sourced food aid to address emergency needs. The system was used to respond to the crises in the Ebola-struck countries. ECOWAS, as first action to support recovery, also facilitated the provision of 4,113 tons of certified quality rice, maize and cowpeas seeds to replace planting seeds that had been consumed due to the crisis. USAID/WA, through CORAF, directly supported this recovery action.
- Strengthened the ECOWAS/WAHO One Health surveillance system for priority transboundary zoonotic diseases (avian influenza, Ebola).

### **Capacity building of West African institutions**

Capacity support to regional West African entities has enabled them to advance their development objectives and mandates; build ownership and sustainability; and facilitate their provision of products and services that are useful, impactful, and cost-efficient. West Africa's Journey to Self-Reliance will be enhanced by the foundation that has been built through USAID/WA investments to date.

- Private sector-based associations, such as the Global Shea Alliance, WAFA, AfSTA-WA, ASIWA and African Cashew Alliance (ACA), have received training in strategic and business planning, budgeting, and resource mobilization to transition them to mature and financially sustainable entities that provide services to their members.
- USAID/WA and World Bank financial support enabled CORAF to strengthen NARS across the region. For the first time, NARS partnered with private sector and NGOs to increase the availability and dissemination of foundation and certified seed of improved varieties of rice, maize, cowpeas sorghum, millet and groundnuts.
- USAID and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) direct technical support catalyzed ECOWAS to establish a Task Force charged with developing a road map for implementing the 2011 harmonized regulations on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, including animal and plant health, and food safety. The priority focus for national and regional plant protection organizations, led by the ECOWAS Task Force, includes Action Plans for aflatoxin, fall armyworm and fruit flies.
- Through the Leadership Capacity Strengthening Project, USAID has helped WAHO to strengthen its capacity as a leader in health in West Africa, for policy harmonization, advocacy, promoting public-private partnerships for health, and identifying, sharing, and supporting the scale-up of best practices in health. Alongside capacity strengthening, USAID has supported regional

<sup>17</sup> by CILSS/Institut du Sahel (INSAH)

<sup>18</sup> Agriculture, Hydrology and Meteorology Research Center/Centre Régional de Formation et d'Application en Agrométéorologie et Hydrologie Opérationnelle (AGRHYMET). National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

nutrition policy and initiatives on food fortification, food safety monitoring, and tracking nutrition financing, all key priorities for WAHO.

### **Policy**

USAID/WA supported ECOWAS and UEMOA to advance key elements of the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) harmonized policies, regulations and standards. With the previous FTF support:

- ECOWAS countries made significant progress in implementing the first-tier components required for harmonization of seed, fertilizer, trade, food fortification, and food safety, animal and plant health policies and regulations.
- ECOWAS updated its regional agriculture strategy (ECOWAP+10), and the second generation RAIP-FSN, which now includes food security and nutrition.
- A joint comprehensive, analytical, and collaborative effort ensured that NAIP-FSNs in all 15 Member States met CAADP's quality standards and incorporated a large set of common indicators that will be used to track progress in the implementation of the CAADP process. ECOWAS was the only REC on the continent that completed such a harmonized process in their entire region.
- ECOWAS is continuing efforts to improve mutual accountability across the region, demonstrated by their commitment to generating evidence-based results that are monitored and reported using a standardized system of data collection and analysis. The benchmarking system tracks each Member State's performance, thereby increasing transparency and allowing the region to share successes while also highlighting continuing constraints. The Regional Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR) in West Africa is founded on ECOWAS' regional integration process.

## **West Africa Regional Trade, Resilience, Food Security and Nutrition Challenges**

### **Food security**

Although substantial progress has been made in food security and nutrition, the West Africa region still faces recurring problems of food and nutrition insecurity affecting millions of people each year, particularly the most vulnerable and the least resilient. Since 2000, Sahelian countries have registered five food crises due to lack of availability of food in a specific area. While lack of economic access to food is an important factor, we also note the increasing role of conflict in the region, which is rapidly overtaking drought as the principal driver of food insecurity.

- While rice and maize productivity has increased over the past decade, most crop and livestock yields have stagnated. Food production in West Africa has not kept pace with increased demand driven by population growth and increased incomes.
- The adoption rates for improved technologies remain low.
- Large year-to-year fluctuations in agricultural production, combined with many value chain intermediaries in a large informal sector, weak spatial market integration and low volumes of marketed output contribute to high inter-seasonal and inter-annual food price volatility. Because both urban and rural populations are increasingly sourcing their food through markets, this price volatility increases exposure to market risks for large segments of the West African population. Food prices are negatively affected by inefficient, costly trade.
- Pests, including locusts and fall armyworm (FAW) devastate crops and cause major depletion of agricultural production. For example, FAW infestations decimated maize crops across West

Africa, threatening food security and livelihoods for millions of smallholder farmers in the region.

- Aflatoxin, one of several mycotoxins, is prevalent in West African food and feed systems and threatens human and animal health in the region.

## Trade

Despite ECOWAS' efforts to establish a harmonized trade regime, a myriad of differing regulations, tariff and nontariff barriers to trade and small, fragmented markets discourage companies and producers from achieving economies of scale. Moreover, poor infrastructure, poor access to finance and investment capital, political uncertainty and insufficient knowledge of regional markets, stymie regional trade and dampen incentives for adopting productivity enhancing technologies and increasing agricultural production.

- Intra-regional trade is estimated to be 10-15% of total ECOWAS trade, well below its potential and trade of agricultural products (staple food products) is largely informal.<sup>19</sup>
- High transaction costs and low economies of scale discourage investments in technologies, infrastructure, and expertise needed to enhance West Africa's competitiveness.
- Transit and transportation costs in West Africa, which are among the highest in the world, raise the final cost of traded goods.
- Many producers in the region, particularly women, youth and other disadvantaged populations, have limited market access, partly due to weak infrastructure, but also small volumes and poor-quality product.
- Women are recognized for their trade aptitude, but are constrained by high illiteracy, and social and cultural norms.
- Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) operate in the informal sector and face cumbersome documentary requirements, high cost and complex clearance procedures. Moreover, they frequently lack business acumen and capacity to meet market demands for quality, quantity and timeliness.
- Nigeria, with its large population and market, has been slow to liberalize its regional and international trade regimes due to powerful domestic constituencies for protectionist policies. Moreover, trade to Nigeria is expensive for various reasons including harassment, formal restrictions and currency controls.

## Resilience

The West African region, from the Sahel to the Coast, lacks critical resilience capacities to absorb, adapt, and transform in the face of both persistent and sudden shocks. As a result, specific capacity development is needed to address a variety of environmental and/or socio-economic variables driving the recurring issues with food and nutrition insecurity. Examples of the capacities this strategy seeks to address are:

- Poverty affects the ability of the poor to access basic social services and contributes to increased prevalence of diseases, poor nutritional status, especially of women and children through inability to purchase nutritionally dense foods.
- Under-performance of the agricultural sector due to lack of access to and knowledge of improved technologies, finance, and markets.

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<sup>19</sup> Carmen Torres and Jeske van Seters. July 2016. "Overview of trade and barriers to trade in West Africa: insights in political economy dynamics, with particular focus on agricultural and food trade". ECDMP Discussion Paper.

- Lack of capacity of individuals, households, communities, and systems to both access and apply tailored and timely weather information inhibits the ability to absorb, adapt, and transform livelihoods in the face of unpredictable weather patterns, severe weather events, and climate change; making the region more vulnerable to recurring climate-related shocks and stresses.
- Lack of national and sub-national compliance with West Africa Environmental Policy inhibits the ability of ECOWAS, UEMOA, and CILSS to effectively reverse the trends of natural resource degradation and depletion in order to guarantee to the people of the sub-region, a healthy environment that consequently improves on the living conditions of the population<sup>20</sup>
- Regional market volatility causes high food prices and food price shocks that disproportionately impact the resilience of individuals, households, and communities to access sufficient nutrient dense foods.
- Fragmented and under-developed value chains limit the capacity of market systems to be resilient to shocks and stresses and thereby limit the income generating opportunities for vulnerable populations.
- The spread of transboundary plant pests and diseases has increased dramatically in recent years. Transboundary plant pests and diseases affect food crops, causing significant losses to farmers and threatening food security. Outbreaks and upsurges can cause huge losses to crops and pastures, threatening the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers and the food and nutrition security of millions of West Africans at a time.
- Regional and national contingency response plans require increased coordination and collaboration in order to increase the capacity of regional systems to effectively assess and manage food and nutritional crises through transparent and data-driven methods.
- Socio-political unrest and armed conflict undermine regional resilience efforts by introducing uncertainty and inducing shocks and stresses at scale. Addressing the causal factors driving violent extremism, especially in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, are necessary to stop the wide-scale displacement of affected populations and the disruption of food production; in order to enable income generation and restore functionality to market systems.
- Gender disparities undermine the resilience capacities of women by limiting their access to educational opportunities and access to or control over assets. As a result, gender disparities inhibit the development of absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacities of women and disproportionately expose them to shocks and stresses.
- High rates of malnutrition (undernutrition, maternal health, and stunting) within the West Africa region adversely and enduringly impact the capacity of individuals, households, communities, and systems to absorb, adapt, and transform in the face of shocks and stresses.
- Lack of access to safe water resources throughout the West Africa region undermines the resilience of individuals, households, communities, and systems; exposing populations to untreated and potentially contaminated water.
- The Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS and UEMOA) has demonstrated the commitment to harmonize regulations and standards but currently lacks the capacity to effectively influence the enforcement and implementation at the national level. As a result, the development of resilience capacities throughout the region has slowed the pace of agricultural transformation, market integration, and viable safety nets.

## **Violent Extremism**

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<sup>20</sup> [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/policy\\_brief\\_wa\\_environmental\\_policy.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/policy_brief_wa_environmental_policy.pdf)

- Violent extremism has been on the rise in West Africa, especially in the Sahel and Lake Chad basin, resulting in wide scale displacement of affected populations as well as disruption of food production, potential for income generation, and functionality. It can threaten and reverse development gains and prospects of development for decades to come and is creating situations of pronounced and critical humanitarian need.
- Geographic and economic isolation, poor governance and lack of credibility of government institutions are key factors underlying the choice to join VE groups.
- Economic push factors are significant drivers of VE: high, multidimensional poverty, unemployment and underemployment, diminishing returns on climate-dependent livelihoods, and increasing conflict over scarce natural resources. Poor governance push factors include lack of government services, perceived corruption, unfair distribution of resources, marginalization, limited access to justice, low respect for human rights by the state, lack of essential services, endemic corruption, and lack of voice and inclusion in decision-making, particularly for youth and women.
- Addressing the needs of youth will be extremely complicated as many are thought to suffer from limitations in five broad categories of “life skills”: 1) self-regulatory skills, 2) critical and complex thinking skills, 3) positivity and hopefulness, 4) moral development, prosocial values, and empathy, and 5) self-efficacy and growth mindset. These life skills reflect capacities that can help an individual in any aspect or phase of their life.<sup>21</sup> Positive process factors among Sahelian youth are quite low as reflected in poor educational outcomes and rising delinquency. This is largely because of weak education systems and the weakening of traditional pro-social values.<sup>22</sup>
- Research found that 71 percent of those joining VE groups did so after a specific ‘government action’, including ‘killing of a family member or friend’ or ‘arrest of a family member or friend’, as the incident that prompted them to join.<sup>23</sup>
- Militarized approaches to address VE appear to aggravate rather than alleviate VE.<sup>24</sup>
- While lack of development is an important factor leading to VE, it is also a foundation for addressing the core drivers of VE recruitment. The multi-sectoral nature of the drivers of VE call for similar multi-sectoral development approaches to address VE.<sup>25</sup>

## Malnutrition

The West Africa region suffers from high rates of both chronic and acute malnutrition, especially in the Sahelian countries. Despite encouraging progress on decreased prevalence of undernutrition in West Africa (from 24% in 1990-1992 to 10% in 2014-2016), the nutritional situation in the region remains worrisome.

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<sup>21</sup> Transferable skills, or soft skills, include qualities or abilities that help you at work, but aren't technical to your vocation. Often, these skills help you stand out from peers in interviews and promotions when everyone has similar technical abilities. These skills are cross-cutting across all technical sectors and enhance an individual's probability of making positive life decisions more generally.

<sup>22</sup> Bonnell, J. (2011). Teaching approaches that help to build resilience to extremism among young people. *UK Department of Education*; Rose, M. (2015). Immunizing the Mind. *British Council*.; de Bruin, W. B. et al. (2015). Individual Differences in Adult Decision-Making Competence. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. 92(5), 938-956.; USAID/WA Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment Initiative (VRAI)

<sup>23</sup> Journey to Extremism (2017) UNDP <http://journey-to-extremism.undp.org/content/downloads/UNDP-JourneyToExtremism-report-2017-english.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Ibid

- 46.3 million people in West Africa were affected by undernutrition in 2016.<sup>26</sup>
- Fifty percent (50%) of deaths of under-five children is attributed to undernutrition.<sup>27</sup>
- Micronutrient deficiencies affect women of reproductive age and children in the region particularly vitamin A, iron, zinc, folic acid and iodine deficiencies.<sup>28</sup> Vitamin A deficiency affects 47% of children under 5 years. Anemia affects 50% of women of childbearing age and 70% of children under 5 years.
- The West Africa region, according to the World Health Organization's (WHO) stunting classification system,<sup>29</sup> is a region of high incidence of stunting. This is despite the region's progress in decreased stunting rates from 36.9% in 2000 to 29.6% in 2017.<sup>30</sup> Numbers of stunted children rose from 15.1 million in 2000, to 18.6 million in 2017.<sup>31</sup>
- More than a third of all people in West and Central Africa do not have access to safe water, and millions drink untreated and potentially contaminated water.
- Childhood obesity, another element of malnutrition, has become a growing concern, although the situation in West Africa is less serious than in many other regions on the continent. Nonetheless, while the rates of obesity have dropped from 3.2% in 2000 to 2.4% in 2017, the overall numbers of people affected has increased from 1.3 million to 1.5 million over this time period.<sup>32</sup>
- Due to increased consumption of fat, sugar, and highly refined and processed foods, obesity rates in West Africa contribute to the double burden of malnutrition. The increasing rates of obesity among the adult population in West Africa are directly linked to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. According to WHO, deaths caused by NCDs will experience a 27% increase by 2030 and are estimated to become the leading cause of death in the region.<sup>33</sup>
- High food prices have negative impacts on the poor in terms of access to sufficient and nutrient dense foods. This has an impact on diet diversification, resulting in insufficient consumption of animal-sourced protein, pulses, fruits and vegetables.<sup>34</sup>
- Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the West African population has access to basic water services, 28% of the population uses basic sanitation, 24% use shared or "limited" sanitation services, 19% use unimproved toilets and 28% defecate in the open.<sup>35</sup>

## Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) and Food Safety

<sup>26</sup> FAO, IFAD and WFP. 2015. The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015. Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress. Rome, FAO.

<sup>27</sup> West Africa Health Organization Strategic Plan 2014-2020. Bobodialaso, Burkina Faso. [http://w3.wahooas.org/web-ooas/sites/default/files/publications/1084/VERSION\\_ANGLAISE\\_CORRIGEE.pdf](http://w3.wahooas.org/web-ooas/sites/default/files/publications/1084/VERSION_ANGLAISE_CORRIGEE.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> Ruel-Bergeron JC and al. Global update and trends of hidden hunger, 1995-2011: The Hidden Hunger Index. PLoS One. 2015; 10(12): e0143497.

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis\\_interpretation\\_guide.pdf](https://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis_interpretation_guide.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> UNICEF /WHO /World Bank. 2018. LEVELS AND TRENDS IN CHILD MALNUTRITION: Key findings of the 2018 edition

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> World Health Organization (2010): Package of essential noncommunicable (PEN) disease interventions for primary health care in low-resource settings. [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/44260/9789241598996\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/44260/9789241598996_eng.pdf?sequence=1)

<sup>34</sup> FAO. 2016. Has ten-year implementation of the regional agriculture policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAP) contributed to improve Nutrition? FAO Accra, Ghana.

<sup>35</sup> UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Program (2015): [www.washdata.org](http://www.washdata.org)

Agricultural exports into global markets are required to meet the importing country's food safety and regulatory standards, but local players may not have the capacity to meet those requirements. Plant and animal pest and disease issues in West Africa can diminish the safety, quality and quantity of animal and plant products, lower food production that can threaten food security and compromise the ability to trade regionally and internationally.

- Mycotoxins are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in both humans and animals. One mycotoxin – aflatoxin - is pervasive throughout the food and feed chains in West Africa.
- While extensive transhumant animal production systems in the ECOWAS region are a traditional and resilient adaptation to local environmental and social conditions, they pose a major challenge in the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), including zoonotic diseases such as Ebola and avian flu.

### **Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS and UEMOA) Capacity**

- ECOWAS acknowledges that while the process of harmonizing regulations and standards for adoption is relatively straightforward, implementation at the national level is more complex, and ECOWAS has limited means to monitor implementation of these policies at the national level.
- National priorities frequently override the regional integration agenda leading to poor implementation of harmonization efforts at national levels.<sup>36</sup>
- Weaknesses of regional, national and local institutions, as well as the lack of resources explain the slow pace of agricultural transformation, market integration and viable safety nets.
- ECOWAS' weak capacity to mobilize resources, coupled with technical and donor partners' inadequate alignment with the priorities of the RAIP-FSN and NAIP-FSNs result in implementation delays and hamper the full achievement of the plans' objectives.
- Effective and coherent use of the ECOWAS structures is challenging, with many priority actions requiring coordination across sectors and across ECOWAS institutions (e.g., nutrition work requiring multi-sector coordination between agriculture and health).
- The ECOWAS Commission has only a limited set of incentives to offer and authority to implement harmonized regulations and standards in Member States.
- UEMOA and ECOWAS continue to operate with parallel systems, policies and regulations, resulting in inefficiencies and constraining true regional integration.

### **Political Economy of the ECOWAS Region**

Political economy studies the relationships between individuals and society and between markets and the state. The analysis is used to explain how a country is managed or governed, taking into account both political and economic factors.

- Protectionist policies by national governments in West Africa, particularly in staple foods, have restricted trade, exacerbated food insecurity and hampered economic integration. Ruling elites often pursue short-term national interest-seeking political survival (e.g., export bans, fertilizer subsidies) rather than implementing agreed upon regional commitments.
- Multiplicity of regional institutions with overlapping memberships and mandates as well as duplication of regional policies result in countries often prioritizing national interests over regional integration, despite agreements at the regional level.

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<sup>36</sup> ECDPM. Jan 2016. Political Economy of Regional Integration in Africa: The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Report. <http://ecdpm.org/peria/ecowas>

- Powerful private sector actors (food importers, trucking cartels) block key reforms and regional initiatives when these are not in their interests, or work with political elites to shape national policies.
- Weaker actors in the value chain (e.g. smallholders, SMEs and traders, many of whom are women) stay in the informal sector due to high costs, taxes, bureaucracy and lack of incentives to formalize.
- Unpredictable and often opaque implementation of government policies and regulations (e.g., border closings, input subsidies) decreases efficiencies and facilitates rent-seeking.
- Rent-seeking by officials through road blocks and border bribes leads to long delays, increased costs of doing business and decreases competitiveness.
- Cross border historical, cultural, ethnic and linguistic ties and differences (e.g., Francophone versus Anglophone) results in informal trade driven by social networks based on shared ethnicity and geographical origin. Exclusion based on ethnicity, gender, or language rather than on merit or performance can limit competitiveness.

### **Private Sector**

Improving the competitiveness of the West Africa private sector is the major pathway to achieving the economic growth and job creation necessary for the region to lift millions of people from poverty. Businesses need a transparent legal and regulatory climate to thrive and grow. The West African private sector continues to be hampered by inefficient institutions with burdensome procedures, inefficient public services and ineffectively applied laws and regulations.

- The poor regulatory environment stifles private sector investment and growth, decreases competitiveness and encourages corrupt practices, thus curbing win-win relationships among all value chain actors that is necessary for sustainability and growth of the system.
- Cumbersome export and import procedures and inefficient border crossings add to the cost of doing business.
- Inadequate road and rail infrastructure, limited direct sea links and inefficient commercial transport are some of the factors resulting in high transportation costs in West Africa.
- Poor access to real time market information and fragmented information and communications technologies (ICT) systems limit the ability to take advantage of opportunities.
- Private sector has difficulty accessing appropriate finance and investment resources.
- Policy formulation and program design, void of private sector inclusion, wastes resources and stymies desired gains and impact of improved regional trade.
- Private sector also has inherent constraints that limit their growth and competitiveness, including: weak entrepreneurial orientation and skills, with little attention to customer service that is necessary to grow business; dependency on government or donor assistance; a vision that is often short-term profit rather than long term investment that is necessary for sustainable profit and business growth; and lack of professionalism that leads to poor quality of services/products.

### **Summary of Stocktaking Exercises and Lessons Learned**

The WA-FTF investments will build on existing partnerships and lessons learned from the previous programs including the FTF MYS. A series of consultations was held to elicit feedback on past interventions and gain an understanding of stakeholders' views of future priorities related to food security in West Africa.

One set of consultations was conducted in May 2017 with a wide range of stakeholders: implementing partners, donors, development partners, regional organizations, the private sector, associations, USG in the region, NGOs and research organizations. The discussions were intended to inform USAID/WA on what stakeholders believe to be current program strengths and weaknesses and identify opportunities for the future. Common themes that emerged include:

- Challenges of implementing regionally harmonized policies at national level.
- Progress on fertilizer and seed policies holds promise for increasing productivity.
- Importance of achieving results in partnership and collaboration with the private sector.
- Potential for regional trade to address food security, including food safety.
- Climate change is visibly affecting the region, and there is a need to develop adaptation approaches, and strengthen risk management.
- The need for a multi-sector approach to improving nutrition, the need to include private sector in nutrition policy and project implementation, and the challenges of cross-sectoral coordination at the ECOWAS level.

A second round of consultations was held in June 2018 with implementing partners, regional organizations, USAID staff from across West Africa, USAID/Washington officers and USG agencies. Participants identified key areas for USAID/WA to take into consideration in the WA Regional Plan. Some priorities that were identified include:

- Strong partnerships, alignment and coordination.
- Harmonization of policies, regulations and guidelines to facilitate regional trade.
- Strong SPS system and guidelines for the region.
- Strong private sector engagement and a focus on driving new investment into the agricultural sector.
- For scale, impact and sustainability, the private sector must constitute a key driver of change to ensure greater food safety, food security and poverty reduction in the region.
- Leveraging expertise of regional institutions and alignment with already existing regional resilience programs.
- ECOWAS and its Member States need to deepen good governance and create an enabling business environment to attract private sector investment.
- Clear and specific expected roles and responsibilities of each identified partner are needed to enhance partnerships that can effectively implement WA Regional Plan.

## Targeting

**Target Geography:** WA-FTF will work with the 15 countries in the ECOWAS region, along with Mauritania<sup>37</sup> and Chad. These two countries are members of CILSS, who has a lead role on resilience and food insecurity across the region. Priority will be accorded to the five GFSS Focus Countries – Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, and Niger.

**Target Value Chains:** The private sector-led approach for USAID/WA efforts requires retaining the flexibility to pursue those commercial opportunities with the ability to scale and the potential to achieve GFSS priorities of inclusive agriculture-led growth, resilience and nutrition. USAID/WA Regional GFSS Plan will consider value chains that offer one or more of the following potentials:

- Potential to expand intra-regional agricultural trade, markets and investment at scale;

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<sup>37</sup> Activities that include Mauritania will depend on the Tier 3 trafficking report. Currently there is a hold on any new activities.

- Potential to create large-scale employment opportunities;
- Potential to advance trade and investment opportunities between the U.S. and West Africa;
- Potential to enhance resilience;
- Potential to increase the availability of safe and nutritious foods and improve food security;
- Extent of broad-based inclusion, including women, youth, and vulnerable populations; and
- Extent of use of climate-smart agriculture practices and other responsible natural resource management practices.

## Theory of Change

The theory of change is **if** the USG, working collaboratively and in partnership with ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS, technical regional organizations, national governments, private sector, civil society and other development partners, facilitates a more conducive trade policy environment, reduces costs and time for the movement of goods, including agricultural commodities (crops, livestock, agricultural inputs, foods), and integrates markets **then** traders in these commodities will have a predictable environment for trade that stimulates increased trade volumes, attracts investment along value chains, and increases the availability of improved agricultural technologies and safe and nutritious foods. Expanded trade increases competitiveness and opportunities for greater market shares generating higher incomes, while better market integration reduces the level of volatility in national food markets. Expanded trade and market integration increases the regional capacity to absorb supply and price shocks, and thus enhance the resilience of domestic food markets. **Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led growth** along with **inclusive approaches to trade expansion** lead to improved food security, increased employment opportunities (both off and on farm), and better poverty outcomes for vulnerable groups (including women and youth). **Trade alone, however, cannot achieve GFSS objectives of strengthening resilience and improving nutrition particularly for the chronically food insecure.** If the focus on inclusive trade and markets is coupled with sustainable natural resource management, climate smart technologies, sustained availability and use of climate information, insurance mechanisms, viable safety nets, strengthened surveillance, monitoring and response planning systems for food insecure populations, as well as mycotoxins, and pests and diseases, then the West Africa region, will stand a greater chance of **sustainably reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.**

### ***Theory of Change for DO 1: Expanded inclusive agriculture related regional and international trade, markets and investment***

Implementation at the country level of agreed upon ECOWAS trade policies and regulations, including those provisions for informal, small-scale farmers and traders, coupled with removal of trade barriers will reduce the costs of moving goods within West Africa, including food staples, seeds, fertilizers, fortified foods and other food products. If implementation is effective and rules are transparent and implemented consistently, then there will be improved predictability in markets and prices, which in turn provides incentives for businesses, including small informal sector traders and producers, to engage in trade, and will stimulate economies of scale and private sector competitiveness. Increasing access to finance and investment services, including savings and credit options and use of proven business models will improve competitiveness, increase potential for diversification and/or scaling and integration into global value chains, improve country-level competitiveness that can lead to economic growth and job creation. Using value chain approaches to include women, youth and other marginalized populations will allow these vulnerable populations to increase incomes from the growth and increased competitiveness of value chains. If the WA-FTF supports the ECOWAS Task Force to develop harmonized SPS standards, and strengthens related regional and national level SPS institutions, then there will be improved and more effective monitoring of national and regional food supplies

and implementation of the harmonized SPS regulations, leading to decreased amounts of unsafe food entering markets and reduced impact of pests and diseases. If regional and national government agencies share information on plant pests, plant and animal diseases, and food safety contaminants, and conduct and share research, then there will be more data to inform responses.

If regional organizations continue strengthening the capacity of recently established structures (West Africa Seed Committee, the Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa, the West Africa Fertilizer Association) to achieve their mandated results, and solidifies the implementation of regionally harmonized regulations, the increased supply of high quality agricultural technologies will increase and move to scale across West Africa. If there is strategic coordination and strong alignment between regional efforts and national investments by governments and donors who work with producers at the national level, then marginalized producers (women, youth) will have increased access to improved agricultural technologies.

***Theory of Change for DO 2: Increased resilience through management of shocks, risks, and stresses***

If the USG supports ECOWAS and regional technical agencies to increase awareness of and provide timely user-tailored geospatial information on the location of water, dynamic land use status, and weather and climate situations to national and local decision makers, there will be more effective management of natural resources and climate change risk and **increased adaptive capacities** at national level. Increased access to information on practices to decrease aflatoxin and pesticide residues in food production and on plant and animal diseases will also decrease health risks and increase adaptive capacities. Success in increasing the capacity at regional, national, and local levels to prevent, counter, and mitigate the impacts of violent extremism in the region, will contribute substantially to a more stable, peaceful region and increase the potential of **absorptive capacities** of communities benefiting from GFSS and other development interventions. USAID/WA's Regional Peace and Governance Office is working collaboratively with SRO, ECOWAS and G5 on a series of interlinked strategies and program interventions to respond to this problem that will contribute to WA-FTF resilience efforts.

**Transformative capacity** will be strengthened through building regional capacity and systems for data collection, analysis, monitoring, risk analysis and early warning. Strengthened surveillance and response protocols and systems for priority pests (e.g., fall armyworm) and food safety (mycotoxins, pesticide residues) at regional and national level institutions will also improve transformative capacity. Continued support to the CILSS-managed Cadre Harmonisé, early warning system provides information on localized problems of food insecurity and vulnerability. If CILSS strengthens its networks, which must include civil society, the private sector, regional institutions and national statistics offices in the effective use of these harmonized systems, and national governments commit the required financial and staff resources to operationalize the systems, then national Resilience and Disaster Response Plans will become the first line of defense in responding to conflict, natural disasters and food insecurity crises, thereby building self-reliance of the Region. If the Cadre Harmonisé analysis of acute food insecurity is technically sound, then the international humanitarian response will be better targeted and more effective. Further, if the ECOWAS-African Risk Capacity (ARC) partnership develops early warning systems that are the basis of contingency and response plans; that enable earlier response to disasters; and that assist West African countries to access regional insurance mechanisms through the ARC to finance responses, then the regional and the Member States will improve the effectiveness of their planning for, and response to climate-related disasters. If the ECOWAS Food Security Reserve is operationalized as regional safety net of last resort and is linked to "first response" national reserves, then there will be decreased dependency on donor-supported emergency food aid.

When the country- and regionally-led mechanisms for crisis and humanitarian response are rationalized, strengthened, financially supported, and function as planned; and there is strategic coordination to better link vulnerable populations, especially women and youth to agriculture, trade, and nutrition investments then the regional resilience capacity to respond to and recover from shocks, risks and stresses will be transformative and decrease the need for international humanitarian assistance.

***Theory of Change for DO 3: Increased access to safe and nutritious foods***

If ECOWAS develops harmonized standards for safe food and strengthens regional and national level institutions then there will be improved and effective implementation of the regional harmonized regulations on safe foods, leading to decreased amounts of unsafe food entering markets. If regional and national government agencies share information on safe food situations, and conduct and share research, then there will be increased information flows that will increase knowledge and improve decision making and responses, and more technologies/practices to control foodborne diseases and mitigate hazards such as mycotoxins.

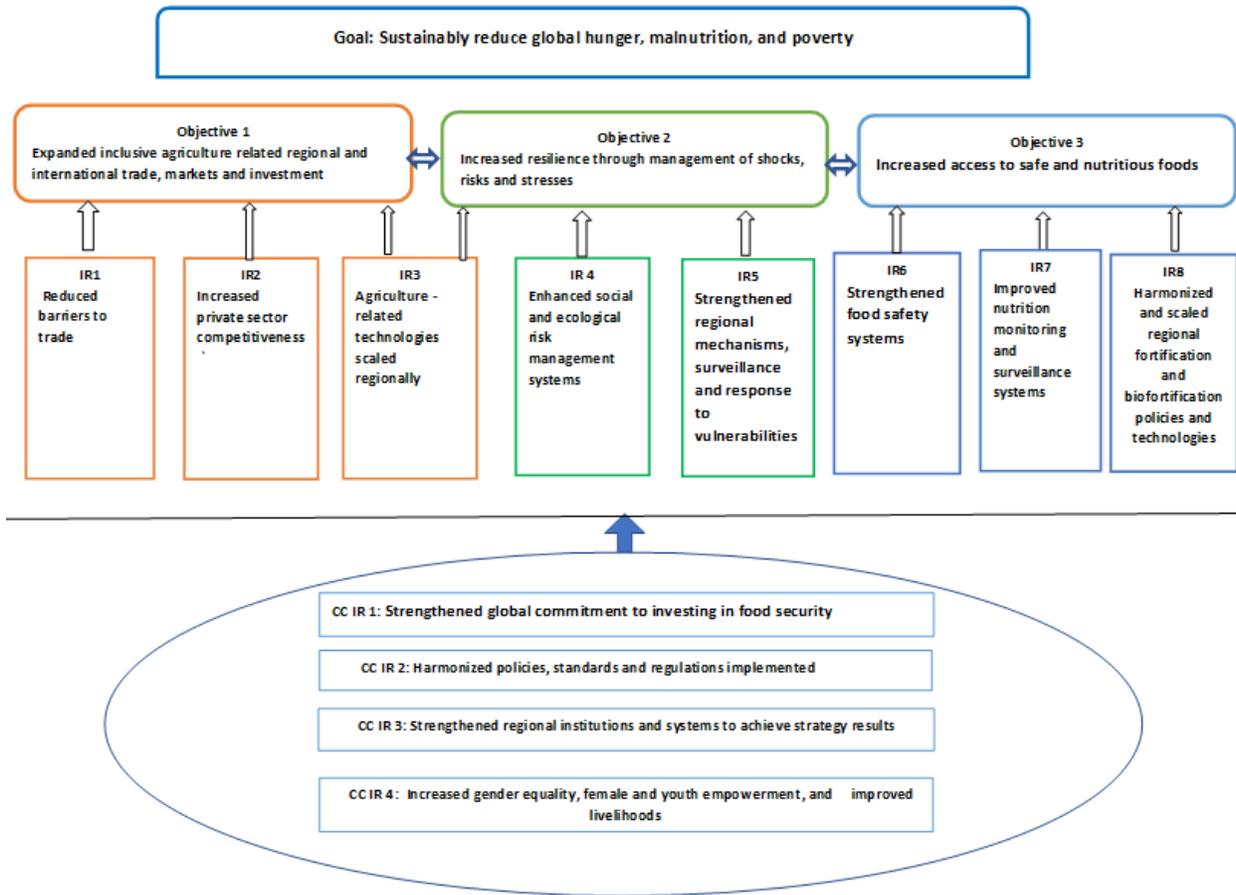
If ECOWAS, regional entities and national governments support research and scaling of biofortified seed varieties, and if the incentives are in place for private sector partnerships to prioritize the production, commercialization and marketing of high yielding, short-cycle, drought tolerant and biofortified or nutrient-rich varieties of millet, sorghum, rice and maize in the region, then there will be increased access to a range of nutrient-rich foods to improve year-round dietary diversity particularly for rural populations who may have limited access to diverse diets or other micronutrient interventions.

Partnerships between national governments, private sector food manufacturers and other stakeholders lead to region-wide decisions to remove taxes on imported pre-mixed fortificants, which will provide incentives for private sector investment in fortification and potentially lower the cost of fortified foods to consumers. If support is continued for implementation of existing standards, including quality control, for fortified wheat flour and oil, then the countries that have not yet adopted these standards will be encouraged to implement them and fortified products will be available throughout the region. If public-private collaborative research identifies additional products that can be fortified and are widely consumed by and affordable for women and their children, and regional standards are developed for industrial production, and research identifies crops with potential for bio-fortification, then there will be increased availability of a wider variety of nutritionally enhanced foods that address different nutritional deficiencies. Support for capacity building of both public and private sector quality control and quality assurance systems will ensure the quality and the safety of the fortified food.

Addressing malnutrition and food security issues in the region will also require timely and quality information. If regional and national stakeholders continue to improve surveillance tools and systems needed to detect acute malnutrition, as well as identify populations at various stages of food insecurity risk and generate data on performance of nutrition interventions; and introduce and utilize them across West Africa, then decision makers, including national, regional and international/donor partners will be better positioned to prevent/address food and nutrition insecurity and famine.

Finally, If stakeholders from the region – policy makers, private sector, researchers, food safety and nutrition experts and decision makers are regularly convened to exchange information and to learn about innovations, research and best practices, then programs in food safety and nutritious foods will become more strategic, impactful and synergistic.

**Figure 1: Results Framework for WA Regional Plan**



## Development Objectives

The Goal of the WA Regional Plan is to *sustainably reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty in West Africa*, which is the goal of the Global GFSS. The goal will be achieved through three Development Objectives (DOs) and Intermediate Results (IRs). The sections below present a brief description of illustrative investments under each Development Objective. *Actual interventions and activities to be implemented will depend on the level of resources made available to the for the WA GFSS Regional portfolio*. The framework is a static representation of the objectives and activities proposed under the WA Regional Plan. In reality, the objectives and their activities are interrelated and mutually supporting. Linkages between the DOs are detailed in Annex 4.

### **DO 1: Expanded inclusive agriculture-related regional and international trade, markets and investment**

- IR 1: Reduced barriers to trade
- IR 2: Increased private sector competitiveness
- IR 3: Agriculture-related technologies scaled regionally

### **DO 2: Increased resilience through management of shocks, risks and stresses**

IR 4: Enhanced social and ecological regional risk management system  
IR 5: Strengthened regional systems for surveillance and response to vulnerabilities.

**DO 3: Increased access to safe and nutritious foods**

IR 6: Strengthened food safety systems in West Africa  
IR 7: Improved nutrition monitoring and surveillance systems  
IR 8: Harmonized and scaled regional fortification and biofortification policies and technologies

**CC IR 1: Strengthened global commitment to investing in food security**

**CC IR 2: Harmonized policies, regulations and standards implemented**

**CC IR 3: Strengthened regional systems and institutions**

**CC IR 4: Increased gender equality, female and youth empowerment, and improved livelihoods**

**DO 1: Expanded inclusive agriculture-related regional and international trade, markets and investment**

DO 1 will build on previous FTF investments and deepen national implementation of the ECOWAS harmonized policies and regulations on trade, agricultural inputs, and sanitary and phytosanitary standards. The Regional Plan will support a multi-donor effort to remove trade barriers to reduce the cost of trade, and will increase private sector competitiveness that combined, will contribute to predictable availability of safe, affordable food. Expansion in regional trade has the potential to increase the diversity of national diets by increasing the availability of different types of foods. Implementation approaches for DO 1 will strive to ensure inclusiveness such that women, youth and other disadvantaged groups will benefit from increased opportunities - employment, increased agricultural productivity, more predictable markets through the illustrative WA-FTF support below:

**IR 1. Reduced barriers to trade**

Transparent implementation of regulations, harmonization of standards across the region, predictability of the rules and simplification of processes will reduce the time and costs for the trade, increase private sector savings and competitiveness and increase trade in West Africa. WA-FTF will support specific trade facilitation reforms at critical points along selected trade corridors that maximize the likelihood of increasing efficiency and create an enabling environment for trade in the legal, regulatory and procedural areas to foster efficiency in targeted trade corridors. The WA-FTF trade and market activities will include assisting ECOWAS Member States to improve quality through increased use of harmonized grades and standards, including fertilizer, seed and sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) for selected commodities. FTF investments will strengthen the SPS systems in the region in collaboration with USDA and USAID bilateral programs. A strong regional SPS system will assist countries to adopt regulatory systems that ensure domestic food supplies are safe and nutritious, harmonize domestic regulations with international standards and improve West African countries' ability to trade regionally and globally. FTF investments will also provide technical support to the ECOWAS Task Force for Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Plant Pests to help reduce the impact of commodity losses and reductions in trade due to pest outbreaks and diseases in the region.

*Illustrative interventions:*

- Build the capacity of the ECOWAS Commission, national policy makers and implementation agencies responsible for implementation of measures that enhance trade facilitation in the region.
- Improve ECOWAS monitoring and Member State implementation of key regional and international trade facilitation commitments including the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme, the Common External Tariff (building block for a customs union), World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement, and SPS agreement.
- Partner with ECOWAS and Member States to reduce the time and cost to trade on priority regional transport corridors with a focus on improving trade between Sahelian and coastal countries. The selected corridors will seek to support and link bilateral GFSS countries in the region to regional and international markets.
- Improve and simplify customs and border processes and procedures between countries and along selected corridors.
- Reduce trade barriers for small scale traders with an emphasis on improving conditions for women and youth traders.
- At the same time, WA-FTF will provide support at the firm level by working with major buyers/traders/processors to expand their sourcing through co-investment in smaller producers/suppliers to meet SPS and food safety requirements and buyer specifications.
- Train National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) on pest identification, detection and surveillance, and response to invasive pests and strengthening information sharing among the NPPOs within the region.

## **IR 2. Increased Private Sector Competitiveness**

USAID/WA will foster the creation of a private-sector-friendly enabling environment including but not limited to (policies, regulations, rule of law, corruption, transaction costs, etc.) that creates incentives for investments that contribute to advancing the regional strategy. The WA-FTF will identify opportunities to partner with the private sector at scale and to support agricultural companies that can only succeed and expand with regional sourcing and distribution solutions. The WA-FTF will support:

- Scale business models regionally or internationally by partnering with selected private sector firms operating in the region that depend on regional sourcing and distribution.
- Build partnerships with U.S. companies buying, sourcing and investing in agriculture in West Africa to expand bilateral trade and investment flows, including through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).
- Build out large scale multi-country sourcing operations that include large numbers of people and smallholders into regional and international supply chains.
- Foster innovative regional debt and equity financing partnerships to support development and expansion of regional commercial scale operations. Financing needs for these companies are larger and more complex than typical Development Credit Authority (DCA) and bilateral financial access programs.
- Catalyze investments into new and expanded value-added agriculture segments with regional operations including, but not limited to, processing facilities, food and beverage manufacturing, cold storage and fresh export facilities.
- Explore options to take advantage of Nigeria's market potential and foster investment in and trade with other West African countries such as Niger.
- Assess the viability of trade and partnerships on the basis of changes to the security situation---as sourcing/trade may become highly restricted due to increasing frequency of conflict.

### **IR 3. Agriculture-related technologies scaled regionally**

The WA-FTF Plan will prioritize investment in systems strengthening and scaling productivity enhancing technologies that are gender sensitive with the goal of increasing agricultural productivity for smallholder farmers, enhancing smallholder farmer household income, increasing women's empowerment in agriculture and trade, and take advantage of technological opportunities to diversify and improve the nutritional content of food. To attract investment and to expand the regional agricultural inputs market, it is essential to deepen and harmonize the implementation of national and regional seed, fertilizer and pesticide policies and regulations. The WA-FTF will work through its regional partners, primarily CORAF, to scale up the dissemination of agricultural technologies. CORAF achieves this scaling through its relationships with the Ministries of Agriculture NARS (consisting of National Agricultural Research Institutes, universities, and other research organizations), as well as their Innovation Platforms comprised of private and public sector value chain actors, to achieve national-level dissemination.

#### *Illustrative interventions:*

- Build capacity of regional and national organizations to implement existing regionally harmonized policies to facilitate trade in agricultural inputs and outputs, and food.
- Strengthen committees responsible for monitoring the implementation of the harmonized regional regulations on seed, fertilizer and pesticide products.
- Strengthen regional private sector agricultural inputs and outputs, food and trade associations to improve their operations and advocacy capacities.
- Partnerships with private sector seed companies to expand the production and marketing of climate tolerant, early maturing, and pest and disease resistant hybrids. Engage with the private sector seed companies through the Alliance for Seed Industry in West Africa (ASIWA), the Africa Seed Trade Association (AfSTA) and the West Africa Fertilizer Association to explore possible investment in the production of bio-fortified seed varieties and micro nutrient fortified fertilizers.
- Support CORAF to identify product diversification and bio-fortification options in value chains with potential for nutritional impact. Strengthening CORAF and CILSS to effectively work with private sector and backstop the National Centers of Specialization and Regional Centers of Excellence in their efforts on testing and validating new and already developed technologies to ensure their scalability.
- Promote use of knowledge management tools and online platforms such as the web-based Market of Innovations and Agricultural technologies (MITA) and the WASIX to facilitate technology upscaling.
- Facilitate technical support for harmonization and alignment of registration authorities in expansion of Sahelian Pesticide Committee to a broader West Africa regional mandate.
- Develop a Regional Inputs Strategy for West Africa.
- USAID/WA in collaboration with SRO will conduct assessments to identify partnerships and investment opportunities to support populations displaced by conflict.
- Strengthening national and regional monitoring systems of foods and input products

**Partners:** ECOWAS, UEMOA, Dutch and Danish governments, World Bank, AfDB, USDA, FAO, AGRA, CORAF, IFDC, CILSS, bilateral USAID bilateral missions, private sector companies and associations.

## **DO 2: Increased resilience through management of shocks, risks, and stresses**

Strengthening resilience in the region is a strategic priority for ECOWAS. Taking a regional approach to building resilience is challenging due to the very complex nature of vulnerability. It is dynamic, multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional. Drivers of vulnerability include poverty, gender, nutrition status, food insecurity, conflict, environmental degradation, climate change and access to social services, to name but a few. A stocktaking exercise revealed the diversity and depth of resilience programming in West Africa and the numerous actors involved. ECOWAS recognizes the need to rationalize and align these disparate efforts to more effectively use the available resources for greater development impact. The WA-FTF will support ECOWAS in its rationalization efforts on resilience programming.

The WA-FTF will support chronically vulnerable populations in the West Africa region through strengthening regional risk prevention and management systems to effectively respond to shocks and stresses and pursue pathways out of poverty. The WA-FTF will collaboratively develop, pilot and strengthen regional tools and services working with other USAID Operating Units as appropriate that can be scaled up in other regional and country-level programs. For example, WA-FTF will work with the Sahel Regional Office (SRO), NASA, USGS, MCC, and other partners through the West Africa SERVIR Hub to accurately assess location and recharge capacity of groundwater sources that can be used for informing water use programming across Niger. Similarly, the WA-FTF will collaborate with FFP and FEWSNet in strengthening the rigor and quality of data collected and analyzed as part of a regional food security and vulnerability monitoring system.

FTF-WA will work with the Regional Peace and Governance Office (RPGO) and the Sahel Regional Office (SRO) on assessments focused on identifying partnership and investment opportunities in Niger and Burkina Faso to support employment in regions affected by violence as well as investments/partnerships that could support displaced populations. USAID/WA will seek to co-invest with SRO on potential partnerships identified. In addition, USAID/WA will need to assess the viability of some partnerships on the basis of changes to the security situation---as farming, sourcing/trade for instance may become highly restricted due to conflict. In collaboration with SRO and RPGO, efforts will be made to find examples of conflict responsive partnerships that could inform interventions by other partners. The WA GFSS Regional Plan will promote coordination with the Regional Peace and Governance Office to share information on the Conflict Risks and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVA) with GFSS focus and aligned countries to inform their food security, resilience and nutrition programming at the country level. The CRVA assess the structural vulnerabilities to conflict, potential events that could trigger conflict, and community-based resiliencies that could ward against future conflict for each of the ECOWAS Member States.

## **IR 3: Enhanced social and ecological regional risk management systems**

Well-functioning ecological systems provide and regulate the water essential for human health, maintaining productive landscapes necessary for agricultural, pastoral and coastal livelihoods, and for reducing risks of natural resource-based conflicts and climatic shocks.

### *Illustrative interventions*

- Strengthen capacities of regional institutions to provide tailored geospatial tools to inform decision making in: agriculture and food security; water and water related disasters; weather and climate; and land use, land cover change and ecosystems. USAID/WA investments through SERVIR and NASA will be managed in synergy with SRO and FFP investments through USGS, FEWSNet and other partners that address similar objectives.
- Contribute to the elaboration of agro-hydro-climatic seasonal forecasts.

- Support formal risk management systems that provide information to manage risk, identify practices to reduce risks, and that strengthen response systems to reduce impact of shocks and facilitate recovery.
- Provide geospatial information services for helping countries monitor and respond to locust swarms.
- Improve the sustainability and scale up of social protection programs.
- Heighten awareness among West African nations and regional partners of Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and early warning systems.

#### **IR 4: Strengthened regional systems for surveillance and response to vulnerabilities**

Over the last 20 years, early warning systems for food security in West Africa have been widely recognized to have contributed to an improved ability to predict and respond well before an emergency reaches famine status. Nevertheless, despite the advancements in understanding the environmental and socio-economic dynamics and despite the improved technologies, there remains a considerable gap between responding to acute needs and creating durable conditions for food security. ECOWAS has realized that the initial National and Regional Agriculture Investment Plans did not fully address food security, and that nutrition was for the most part, absent. The second round of NAIPs and the RAIP strives to better incorporate these aspects. Effective governance of food security, and nutrition and resilience systems at regional and national levels requires: review and analyses; committed national financing; and effective utilization and management of regionally-owned processes.

ECOWAS has recognized the serious threat posed by mycotoxins (e.g., aflatoxin) in the region's feed and food chains and animal diseases transmitted to humans (zoonoses) such as Ebola. Such threats compromise food security and undermine resilience of households, communities and countries. WA-FTF will support ECOWAS, CILSS and West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) to rationalize the various systems dealing with surveillance and response for food safety, animal health and nutrition to maximize effectiveness, avoid duplication and improve response. USAID/WA will work with and improve systems of mandated regional institutions responsible for the management of priority threats:

- WAHO's One Health Approach – includes avian influenza and Ebola.
- Regional Center for Disease Control – pandemics, including avian influenza and Ebola.
- Regional Animal Health Center- 8 priority zoonotic disease, including avian influenza and Ebola.
- Regional Epidemiological Surveillance Network (RESEPI) – for animal diseases.
- West and Central Africa Veterinary Laboratory Network (RESOLAB) for avian influenza and other transboundary animal diseases.
- ECOWAS Food Reserve System – Food stocks and finance to address emergency food aid needs.
- The Network for Food Crisis Prevention in the Sahel and West Africa (RPCA) supports and advances resilience – integration of nutrition into the Cadre Harmonisé surveillance framework.

#### *Illustrative interventions:*

- Work with ECOWAS to monitor resource mobilization for the RAIP-FSN and NAIP-FSNs that include commitments to Food Security and Nutrition.
- Strengthen the quality of monitoring and evaluation of the RAIP-FSN and NAIP-FSNs.
- Build capacity in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food safety for Member States to better address nutrition commitments in NAIP-FSNs.
- Strengthen response capability of the ECOWAS Regional Food Reserve.
- Support ECOWAS' efforts to rationalize the various structures and interventions that encompass the food security and nutrition governance and response system in the region and commit

regional resources for operationalizing a comprehensive system that is performing to meet regional needs.

- Prepare a participatory evaluation tool to assess the performance of the food security system - from the diagnostic of the situation to the response.
- Support ECOWAS' design of a regional contingency plan, support the definition of national contingency plans and incorporate a major crisis scenario. These contingency plans are used to develop response plans.
- Strengthen national and regional early warning and response systems and improve the design, implementation, monitoring and learning of National Response Plans.
- Continue to support the production of a biennial report on the state of hunger and malnutrition in ECOWAS, the implementation of the Right to Food<sup>38</sup> and, more generally, the Zero Hunger Initiative.
- Contribute to national harvest assessments and joint annual food security assessments.
- Strengthen capacities for the implementation of the Cadre Harmonisé Framework methodology, including:
  - Strengthen the national harvest verification validation process;
  - Support the decentralization of many Cadre Harmonisé analysis functions to create stronger buy-in/ownership from national governments;
  - Work toward a greater openness of the analysis to debate as well as transparency about data used to reach key decisions
  - Training and adaptation of the tool to better integrate nutrition, resilience, gender, conflict analysis, and the differing needs of pastoralists in the Cadre Harmonisé framework; Collaborate with the FAO's IPC to provide better information on acute malnutrition (particularly the non-food security related factors) and strengthen the CH analysis on both food insecurity and acute malnutrition.
  - Work with the Sahel and West Africa Club and CILSS to streamline incorporation of budget line items in countries' national budgets for crisis prevention and management/response.
- Facilitate countries' ability to access Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) comprehensive disaster risk financing mechanism through improved and regionally harmonized national response plans.
- Explore opportunities for integrating CRVA as well as other ECOWAS conflict monitoring and response analysis into the WA-FTF supported regional systems for surveillance and response to vulnerabilities. The analysis will allow food security partners to adjust/shape the WA-FTF supported programs in response to the evolving security situation on the ground.
- Partial support to the Regional System for the Prevention of Food Crises (PREGEC) meetings;
- Work with Global Health, WAHO and CDC to build capacity and facilitate knowledge exchange on best practices for surveillance of nutrition data including micronutrient measures

**Partners:** ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, Club du Sahel and West Africa, SERVIR, NASA, USGS, FEWSNet, USAID/FFP and OFDA, Global Health, Regional Health Office, CDC, FAO, World Food Program, Africa Risk Capacity (ARC), the World Bank's Agricultural Insurance Development Program (AIDP) Sahel Regional Office, West Africa Regional Peace and Governance Office, bilateral missions, private sector companies and financial institutions

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<sup>38</sup> FAO Hunger-Free Initiative for West Africa.

### DO 3: Increased access to safe and nutritious foods

Over the past decade, the depth of the nutrition problem in West Africa has become more evident, creating the need for USAID/WA to update its strategic intent and approach to nutrition programming in the region. ECOWAS is grappling with the reality that despite the notable accomplishments made in increased agricultural production in some of the staple food crops, the nutritional situation is worsening severely in the region.<sup>39</sup> West Africa's population accounts for about 30% of Africa's population. From roughly 367 million people in 2015, it is expected to increase to almost 570 million by 2035. The rapid population growth is resulting in a deepening of well-documented nutritional issues in rural areas as well as a rapidly urbanizing population whose dietary choices are heavily influenced by economic and technological developments.

Although some progress has been made, the prevalence of malnutrition remains high across the region and most countries are off track for meeting the World Health Assembly (WHA) targets.<sup>40</sup> Obesity in females and children under age five is on the rise, and often coexists alongside forms of undernutrition. A variety of factors drive the burden of undernutrition in West Africa, including low rates of exclusive breastfeeding, inadequate dietary diversity among children between 6 and 23 months of age, inadequate WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) practices, low access to sanitation, and insufficient access to health services.<sup>41</sup> The primary source of the obesity and overweight challenge hinges on urban diets and lifestyles which include increased consumption of energy-dense foods that are high in fat; and a decrease in physical activity due to the increasingly sedentary nature of many forms of work, changing modes of transportation, and increasing urbanization are contributing factors.

Under previous programming, USAID/WA supported successful implementation of a regionally harmonized framework for food fortification that was adopted by almost all ECOWAS Member States. The GFSS plan lays out the specific directions that USAID/WA, working with regional organizations, national governments and other partners will undertake to accelerate the attainment of ECOWAS RAIP objective of "*Improve access to food, nutrition and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations.*" The nutrition objectives of the GFSS Regional Plan will be achieved through coordinated efforts and leveraging of resources (both human and financial) of other USG agencies as well as regional and national partners including the private sector. WA-FTF will support regional efforts that contribute to broader GFSS and ECOWAS nutrition priorities and add value to USAID bilateral efforts.

Through DO 1, WA-FTF aims to reduce the cost of trade that can contribute to increased availability and affordability of safe, nutritious and diverse foods in the region, including horticulture, animal-source foods and nutrient-dense products. The regional work on agricultural trade and nutrition will complement bilateral nutrition efforts, including those focused on social and behavior change and nutrition-specific approaches at the household and community levels.

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<sup>39</sup> ECOWAS 2016-2025 Regional Agriculture Investment Plan and Food Security and Nutrition

<sup>40</sup> World Health Assembly Nutrition Targets for 2025:

- 40 percent reduction in the number of children under 5 who are stunted
- 50 percent reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age
- 30 percent reduction in low birth weight
- No increase in childhood overweight
- Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months up to at least 50 percent

Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5 percent

<sup>41</sup> <http://a4nh.cgiar.org/2018/04/24/transform-nutrition-west-africa-launches-with-consultation-in-dakar/>

Leveraging its convening power in the region, USAID/WA in partnership with WAHO will convene diverse stakeholders and facilitate the flow of information and share best practices and approaches for nutrition-sensitive programming and policies. In addition, USAID/WA will aim to align with the WAHO regional nutrition strategy whose objectives include:

- Improving governance, coordination, implementation, planning, and monitoring and evaluation of food and nutrition security;
- Consolidating knowledge management, including sharing of best practices, monitoring for optimum decision-making;
- Consolidating capacities for regulation and implementation of high-impact interventions in nutrition; and
- Mobilizing resources for food and nutrition security.

As complementary activities, USAID/WA will seek to document learning, promote the exchange of information on program interventions and successes from GFSS focus countries, facilitate broader USG engagement with regional stakeholders, and disseminate information on GFSS impact in responding to the nutrition problems in West Africa.

#### **IR 6. Strengthened food safety systems in West Africa**

The development of relevant and enforceable food safety policy and regulations is an essential component of an effective food safety system. The food safety systems in most countries in West Africa are generally weak, fragmented and not well coordinated, and thus are not effective enough to adequately protect the health of consumers and to enhance the competitiveness of food exports. WA-FTF will support efforts at strengthening the regional food safety control systems with appropriate regulations, testing laboratories and technical implementation capacity to help ensure a safe and nutritious food supply to meet the demands of a rapidly growing regional population that will rely on food produced and processed from various sources. ECOWAS' leadership is critical to ensuring that the actions taken are implemented, over time, across all 15 Member States.

##### *Illustrative investments:*

- Support for the development of safe, nutritious food processing and value addition aligned with international standards and Hazard Assessment and Critical Control Point (HACCP) practices;<sup>42</sup>
- Support the ECOWAS Task Force to develop and implement standards and procedures to address aflatoxin.
- Training of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) on aflatoxin detection, surveillance and standards.
- Strengthen information sharing among the NPPOs within the region.
- Facilitate partnerships to expand development and commercialization of aflasafe.
- Undertake an inventory of food safety laboratories in the region and develop strategies for upgrading laboratories.
- Improve the awareness of food safety issues, such as but not limited to aflatoxin, including the development of appropriate messages for different segments of the population
- Support capacity building for quality assurance and control for private and public sectors to ensure fortified products consistently meet quality and food safety standards.

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<sup>42</sup> The US Food and Drug Administration defines HACCP as a management system in which food safety is addressed through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production, procurement and handling, to manufacturing, distribution and consumption of the finished product.

### **IR 7. Improved nutrition monitoring and surveillance systems**

Efforts to enhance the capacity of various regional and national nutrition surveillance systems are critical to ensure the availability and quality of nutrition data to inform policies and action in the region. USAID/WA will continue to support the strengthening of malnutrition surveillance as part of the food security and food crisis monitoring implemented through the Cadre Harmonisé analytical system coordinated by CILSS. Efforts are underway to improve the quality and types of malnutrition data collected through the piloting of an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification system (IPC) which employs acute malnutrition data collection and analysis tools needed to improve differentiation between acute malnutrition and acute food insecurity. USAID/WA's commitment to strengthen nutrition surveillance within the CH framework is part of a multi-donor process that facilitates the detection of acute malnutrition, identification of populations at various stages of risk, and informing decision-making by national, regional and international/donor entities in order to prevent/address food and nutrition insecurity and famine.

WA-FTF will support ECOWAS in integrating and strengthening nutrition indicators in the RAIP-FSN and NAIP-FSN for all 15 ECOWAS Member States. It will also support the ECOWAP M&E system to integrate national data into a regional system that will facilitate the collection, processing, analysis and reporting of ECOWAP/CAADP performance indicators, including nutrition specific and sensitive indicators.

#### *Illustrative investments:*

- Improving nutrition surveillance such as through strengthening nutrition surveillance systems employed within the Cadre Harmonisé.
- Working with Global Health, WAHO and CDC to improve knowledge and information exchange on best practices on nutrition surveillance.
- Facilitating implementation of the One Health approach through improved coordination between WAHO, RAHC, and ECOWAS.
- Capacity-building in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food safety for Member States - align with nutrition commitments in NAIP-FSNs.
- Increasing consumer and producer awareness of food safety risks and mitigation actions, in collaboration with West Africa countries and regional commodity associations;

### **IR 8. Harmonized and scaled regional fortification and biofortification policies and technologies**

WA-FTF will support research and scaling of biofortified seed varieties, and good agricultural practices for reduced mycotoxins through its continuing partnership with CORAF, the regional lead for agricultural research and technology dissemination. USAID/WA will seek partnership opportunities with private sector seed producers to prioritize the production, commercialization and marketing of high yielding, short-cycle, drought tolerant and biofortified or nutrient-rich varieties of millet, sorghum, rice and maize in the region. This will contribute to increasing year-round access to a range of nutrient-rich foods to improve year-round dietary diversity particularly for rural populations who may have limited access to diverse diets or other micronutrient interventions. WA-FTF investments will promote private sector partnerships that channel inputs, services and technologies to farmers, processors and traders that enhance food production and marketing systems to increase availability to safe and nutritious foods.

WA-FTF will work with regional partners to assess the state of implementation of the initial fortification efforts with respect to adherence to standards and quality control, and to identify better methodologies to measure coverage. It will focus on increasing the commitment and capacity of countries that have not

adopted the regulations to align with regional standards through market-oriented incentives. Partners in the region are also considering additional food products for potential fortification.

*Illustrative investments:*

- Explore partnership opportunities with private sector seed and fertilizer producers to prioritize the production, commercialization and marketing of high yielding, short-cycle, drought tolerant and biofortified or nutrient-rich varieties of millet, sorghum, rice and maize in the region as well as micronutrient fortified fertilizers.
- Using a market-led approach, partner with food manufacturers and industry to increase food fortification. Explore possible fortification opportunities with additional food products, preferably for households in rural areas. The agriculture research structure will be encouraged to work with partners to review and test possible products that can be fortified.
- Support regional efforts to promote micronutrient fortification in countries that have not yet adopted the regional food fortification standards as a sustainable strategy to address vitamin and mineral deficiencies (VMDs) and support countries that have already approved the fortification standards to improve implementation.
- Support capacity building for quality assurance and control for private and public sector actors to ensure fortified products consistently meet standards.
- Support ECOWAS to identify nutrition expertise to facilitate the development and implementation of an action campaign for nutrition-sensitive agriculture.
- Supporting the commercialization of aflatoxin management technologies in collaboration with USDA.
- Determination of regional coverage of fortified foods and whether rural areas benefit from fortified products. This determination would then inform if additional fortification efforts of other food products are necessary to reach the rural/underserved areas.

*In addition, the WA-FTF could potentially support:*

- Capacity building in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food safety for ECOWAS Member States - align with nutrition commitments in NAIP-FSNs.
- Regional nutrition awareness/education program.

**Partners:** ECOWAS, CORAF, CILSS, Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), National structures, Club du Sahel and West Africa, WAHO, CDC, USDA, bilateral missions, USAID BFS, private sector food manufacturers, FFP/OFDA.

## **Cross-cutting Intermediate Results**

### **CCIR 1: Strengthened global commitment to investing in food security**

The WA-FTF will continue supporting ECOWAS to lead structured regional processes for development and implementation of the NAIP-FSNs. The RAIP-FSN provides the framework for NAIP-FSNs and ECOWAS provided technical support to all 15 Member States to ensure that the NAIPs met all AU requirements. ECOWAS convened a business meeting, mobilizing all countries, all regional actors and a critical mass of national, regional and international donors to identify approaches and strategies for mobilizing resources to adequately finance the RAIP-FSN and NAIP-FSNs. The WA-FTF will support the ECOWAP M&E system to integrate national data into a regional system that will facilitate the collection, processing, analysis and reporting of the ECOWAP/CAADP performance and its national and regional

plans. It will also support the Joint Sector Reviews. The USAID support will allow ECOWAS to document national progress and evidence to validate national and regional adherence to the CAADP and Malabo commitments. It will also allow ECOWAS to improve its regional leadership in mutual accountability with the ultimate objective of broadening the base of financial support for the regional commitments.

The WA-FTF will also continue to work with CILSS, donor partners, NGOs, and regional platforms to strengthen the quality of analysis and reporting under the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) that is intended to be the primary tool to identify, report, and respond to food insecure populations across the region. Over time, the CH should become a primary system used by the region and partners to determine food insecurity, however, capacity weaknesses in conducting the analysis and reporting will slow the timeline for the CH to serve as the only basis for decision making regarding food insecurity. Further to its commitment to invest in improved regional food security, ECOWAS has established the ECOWAS Food Security Reserve (EFSR) comprised of approximately 33% physical stocks and 66% finance for purchase and is part of ECOWAS' strategy to decrease dependence on donor emergency assistance. The EFSR is intended to work in conjunction with national and community stocks during food crises. The reserve's ability to purchase stocks aims to encourage sourcing from the region and stimulate West African production.

## **CCIR 2: Harmonized policies, regulations and standards implemented**

The WA-FTF will stay the course in harmonization efforts, working with regional partners – public and private sector – to domesticate priority policies, regulations and standards at the country level. See the Policy Agenda for more details on policies.

Priority policy areas include:

- Agricultural inputs: seeds, fertilizers, pesticides
- Food fortification
- Biosafety
- Cadre Harmonisé
- Priority pests (fall armyworm), and animal and plant diseases
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards and food safety (including aflatoxin)
- Trade: Common External Tariff, ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme

WA-FTF will work with bilateral USAID missions as appropriate, as well as regional and private sector partners and civil society to advance implementation across borders to identify and address bottlenecks to accelerate access to improved goods and services. Priority will be given to opportunities to support the GFSS focus and aligned countries but may in some cases include all 15 ECOWAS Member States as well as Mauritania and Chad.

## **CCIR 3: Strengthened regional systems and institutions**

WA-FTF will continue its commitment to strengthening the capacity of its regional partners, public and private, to facilitate West Africa's Journey to Self-Reliance at both regional and national levels. West Africa will, to the maximum extent possible work to ensure that regionally supported efforts deepen GFSS commitments in focus and aligned countries.

The following regional investments reflect the depth of the WA-FTF commitment to strengthening systems and institutions in West Africa.

## **ECOWAS**

- Capacity of Member States to effectively and efficiently implement and periodically review their NAIP-FSNs
- M&E systems to enhance systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination of such data for informed decision-making and improve reporting on the agricultural and economic sectors.

## **Trade**

- ECOWAS Trade Commission, cross-border post officials
- CILSS market information system
- SPS system at regional and national levels.

## **CILSS**

- Cadre Harmonisé
- Improved delivery of AGRHYMET geospatial services
- Strengthen capacity of National CILSS Committees (CONACILSS)
- Strengthen MEL system
- Contribution to the annual audits.
- Strengthen nutrition monitoring and analysis

## **Agriculture Technologies**

- CORAF and NARS, National Centers of Specialization and Regional Centers of Excellence
- ASIWA, AfSTA, WAFA, Fertilizer and Seed Regional and National Committees.

## **Private Sector**

- SMEs including women-owned, youth-owned
- Financial institutions
- Regional private sector organizations (WAFA, AfSTA-WA, Cashew and Shea Alliances),
- Value chain actors in selected value chains.

## **CCIR 4: Increased gender equality, female and youth empowerment and livelihoods**

Women represent nearly half of the agricultural workers in Sub-Saharan Africa, however, their productivity per hectare is significantly lower than that of men.<sup>43</sup> Women are locked into traditional farming practices while shouldering the responsibility of feeding and taking care of their families. Their wide disparity in agricultural productivity stems from economic, cultural and institutional disadvantages such as their inability to own land and make production decisions. This is compounded by limited access to gender appropriate information, innovative technologies, and finance. Rural women's lack of education, business and entrepreneurial skills development limit their potential to transition from subsistence farming to agriculture as a business, or to leave agriculture for non-agricultural employment.

Gender disparities in access to educational opportunities, and access to and control over assets have negative impacts on household and community resilience. Women are key actors in agricultural

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<sup>43</sup> World Bank 2014

production, marketing of food commodities, family food preparation and consumption, family and community health, and educating children. Social norms however, often hinder and discourage equitable participation by women at all levels of decision-making, including resource allocation. These cultural norms coupled with the acute effects of climatic and environmental shocks significantly undermine women's and children's food and nutrition security. The productive capacity of the population is severely constrained in areas where there are long-term nutritional deficiencies and chronic malnutrition. Investing in female-dominated West African agriculture while introducing policies that eliminate the inequalities in this sector could offer enormous benefits not only to women themselves but also to their families, communities and countries.

There are more young people on the continent today than ever before and the numbers are steadily rising. Youth comprise 60% of the population – the “youth bulge”. Young people from both urban and rural areas work in the informal sector, and in rural areas, the agricultural sector absorbs many young people as informal farm laborers. Some of the most common livelihood options on which West African youth depend include: motorcycle/ taxi riding, artisanal/small-scale mining, street trading, hairdressing/barbering, and drug trafficking.<sup>44</sup>

Finding economic opportunities for the youth population is hampered by economies that, despite a decade of growth, have not generated job opportunities to absorb high numbers of youth. Perhaps even more important is the impact that globalization and information technologies/social media is having in transforming the character of youth aspirations, increasing the gap between young peoples' hopes and the realities in their communities, expanding the inter-generational gap. Policy makers have put their hopes in the agricultural sector to provide opportunities to the young generation, driving investment in upgrading agriculture. Yet agriculture has increasingly become a less attractive sector for youth. Similarly, investment in the education sector has not been matched to the demands of the economy and labor markets. Migration for employment is a key feature of youth mobility in West and Central Africa, as individuals migrate in search of new job opportunities, to improve their social status and to learn new skills and trades. Moreover, young women are increasingly represented among youth migration flows seeking employment opportunities abroad.

In West and Central Africa, youth and women face major challenges, including poor levels of education, insufficient access to knowledge and research outputs; poor access to information and skills acquisition through apprenticeships and internship opportunities; poor access to financial services; limited access to markets, and/or inability to meet market requirements; and minimal participation in policy dialogues. These challenges are important barriers to harnessing youth's energies to enable them to start up agribusinesses, create jobs and wealth, and thus curb migration. A nuanced understanding of specific groups of young people, by gender, and their livelihood activities in their specific social, cultural, political, and economic context is necessary to understand how young people's lives intersect with fragility dynamics.

Given the different levels of understanding, expertise and practices in integrating gender equity and youth in development approaches, more attention must be given to higher quality analysis to identify and prioritize needs and problems of the different groups, ensuring that the practices and policies are not based on erroneous assumptions or boilerplate language. This will allow policy-makers and program managers to better target their policies and interventions to achieve and ensure equitable access to, and control over productive resources.

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

The WA-FTF will be guided by USAID’s Youth in Development Policy, Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach, Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy and Automated Directives System 205 and ECOWAS Youth Policy in addition to utilizing its existing programs and partnerships to support ECOWAS to develop a prioritized implementation plan of interventions for women and youth that offers opportunities for decent employment and incomes for women and youth, and decrease gender inequalities that if not addressed, will continue to compromise agricultural and economic growth. Planned activities are listed below. Additional actions will be considered when the regional gender sector review is completed.

*Illustrative investments:*

- Promote gender and youth-responsive access, adaptation and adoption of technologies and innovations (T&Is) such as integrated soil fertility and water management, integrated pest management, hybrid seed varieties, to increase agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, improve food and nutrition security, and improving family welfare for resource poor farmers, particularly women and youth.
- Build on and disseminate best practices to combat gender inequality in access to productive resources.
- Promote the use of labor-saving T&Is to reduce the time that women spend in farming activities, including post-harvest and value-addition technologies.
- Facilitate training and technical assistance, to seed producers, marketing organizations/companies (including women- and youth-owned businesses), female agricultural researchers, and women leaders in regional organizations.
- Identify innovative training and employment opportunities that would facilitate more youth participation in Trade Hub and value chain activities.
- Forge alliances with regional youth-based (high level youth advocacy and advisory committees) and women-based organizations to increase youth’s and women’s involvement in decision making.
- Strengthen youth capacity in agribusiness start up and management along the targeted commodity value chains.
- Through the Trade Hub partnerships, create income-generating opportunities, including for disadvantaged groups such as women, unemployed youth and people living with disabilities.

## **Contextual Factors Affecting the WA Regional Plan**

The WA-FTF will be implemented in a region with contextual factors that will require continuous monitoring and management. If unchecked, rent-seeking behavior by rogue government officials or ineffective implementation of policies at the national level can derail achievement of the Regional GFSS objectives. The Regional Mission, working collaboratively with bilateral Missions, ECOWAS, other donors and stakeholders will need to identify enabling opportunities that alter or neutralize the impact of the contextual factors listed below.

- While national governments may agree with and sign off on regionally harmonized policies and standards, their national political interests, such as protecting national industries or economic sectors, frequently trump regional priorities. This can lead to lack of implementation of agreed upon regionally harmonized policies.
- Many countries are highly dependent on a small number of export commodities for which prices can be volatile (cocoa, cotton, minerals, oil/gas) and can impact growth and macroeconomic stability.

- Rent-seeking behaviors by governments, the private sector and cartels.
- Poor governance – governments do not effectively deliver economic development, health, education, justice, and good governance for their citizens.
- Ineffective implementation of policies by national governments.
- High population growth rate means increased numbers of poor people override progress on decreasing poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
- Climate change effects, drought, floods, natural disasters, market shocks and stresses impact livelihoods.
- Cultural barriers to women and youth empowerment.
- Unpredictable USG priorities governing foreign assistance.
- Political instability, insecurity and rising violent extremism in West Africa.

## Policy Agenda

While the previous USAID/WA FTF Multi-Year Strategy emphasized the development and implementation of harmonized policies in priority areas (e.g., fertilizer, seed, Cadre Harmonisé, food fortification, SPS), the WA-FTF will deepen the implementation of these policies at national levels. Region-wide consultations and discussions - in the five bilateral GFSS focus countries and the Stakeholders' Workshops - have consistently highlighted policy implementation issues as the principal bottleneck in advancing the needed reforms in the agricultural and food security sector in West Africa.

To ensure effective implementation of policies (existing and new ones to be developed in the course of the next five years), USAID/WA will need to use its influential, convening and catalytic power/position in the region to bring together all the major players and stakeholders (national government officials, regional leaders, implementing partners, the private sector, civil society organizations, and financial and technical partners) for concerted and coordinated actions and interventions. This will be done at the regional level, and at times at national level, for which purpose USAID/WA will engage and seek active collaboration with USAID bilateral missions. The role and joint efforts of USAID regional and bilateral offices is crucial in assisting the ECOWAS countries in their journey to self-reliance.

Strong and robust government institutions, civil society and private sector organizations, at the country and regional levels, are critical to the success of sustainable food security, regional economic integration, and ultimately for the journey to self-reliance. The substantial resources donors are injecting at national and regional levels-- across multiple sectors, require consistent and effective national and regional leadership in order to achieve meaningful, measurable and sustainable impact at the beneficiary level. Effective leadership depends on strong organizational, technical and analytical capacities, as well as the ability to articulate a vision, set goals and collaborate with public and private partners, and stakeholders to achieve those goals. The regional governmental agencies and institutions as well as non-governmental and civil society organizations, the private sector must ensure that investments and policies are driven by sound analysis to promote increased regional trade and agricultural productivity that will lead to improved food security, increased resilience, improved food safety, and poverty reduction.

The Policy Agenda for USAID/WA will consist of a set of interventions at the regional level that have been identified to be critical to achieving GFSS objectives. The agenda will endeavor to support the priorities and develop actions to support West African countries, particularly the GFSS focus and aligned countries, to execute their respective policy agendas. In that regard, USAID/WA staff have actively

participated in the bilateral missions' stakeholders' meetings, the results of which will be incorporated into the policy matrices developed by each bilateral mission. Once finalized, USAID/WA and bilateral missions can definitively identify those policy actions that call for collaboration with the regional mission and on which USAID/WA can add value and/or help advance.

At the regional level, following are indicative policy actions that USAID/WA could consider in complement of those that will be selected at country levels. These provide opportunities to solidify previous FTF MYS interventions and investments and will provide ground for collaboration with countries in advancing their objectives.

- Effective implementation and monitoring of the second generation of the RAIP-FSN and the NAIP-FSNs for all 15 Member States
- Advance harmonization of regional agricultural policies:
  - Advance regional inputs policies implementation at regional and national levels.
  - Capacity of seeds and fertilizer regulatory experts in the region in varietal release.
  - Seed and fertilizer quality control and certification - phytosanitary certification.
  - Support national implementation of recently-approved regional biosafety regulation.
- Advance intra-regional trade policies:
  - Effective implementation of cross-border trade facilitation policies and mechanisms, and removal of technical barriers to trade (TBT).
  - Facilitate the harmonization of SPS standards.
  - Implementation of the ETLs and the CET.
  - Facilitate the promotion of AGOA and other multilateral agreements that can increase exports from the Member States to the developed countries.
- Advance policies and systems to enhance resilience
  - Improve and strengthen the national and regional ownership of food insecurity in the region. Advance greater efficiency and accountability in the Food Crisis Prevention system, including the Network for Food Crisis Prevention in the Sahel and West Africa (RPCA) which provides a forum for dialogue and coordination with the international community as well as the Cadre Harmonisé tool.
  - Build an effective system of surveillance and response for the region to be able to manage plant/animal diseases, and mycotoxins such as aflatoxin.
- Advance improved governance of regional organizations
  - Establish a robust and effective Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System at the national and regional levels. This system is critical for the generation of evidence-based data and information for informed decision making in the region and for the mutual accountability principle that governs ECOWAP/CAADP.
  - Improve the governance architecture of the West Africa region by establishing clear and agreed division of roles: policy and program development and oversight role vs program and project implementation (by the specialized institutions/organizations).
  - Improve the coordination and collaboration between the key regional organizations (ECOWAS and its Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food Security (ARAA), UEMOA,

CILSS, CORAF) through joint planning, and shared program implementation, reviews and reporting.

A comprehensive Policy Matrix will be developed once the USAID bilateral policy matrices are finalized.

## Budget Table

Agency	Sector and account	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	Total
USAID	Feed the Future	15.7m	15.7m	15.7m	15.7m	15.7m	78.5m

The projected budget for the WA Regional Plan is a straight-line projection based on FY18 funding levels from USAID FTF funds. Any funding beyond FY 2018 is subject to the availability of funds, as determined by the President's Budget and a Congressional appropriation. Decreased funding levels will have a significant impact on proposed WA-FTF's ability to achieve results. Other agencies, such as USDA, may contribute limited amounts to specific activities in the region as resources allow. USAID funds from other sources (trade, environment, health) may be available to help to a limited extent to support some activities. Activities with funds leveraged from other USAID Missions or from other donors, such as the West Africa Trade Hub and the West Africa Trade Facilitation Project, may have some degree of resilience in the event FTF resources to West Africa are reduced.

### Alternative Budget Scenario

With reduced funding, USAID/WA would rely to some extent on identifying new or expanding existing partnerships with bilateral USAID Missions and the interagency, private sector and other resource partners to support regional initiatives. If necessary, USAID/WA would evaluate the status and level of impact of activities under the Mission's support and reduce scope or length of those programs with the least potential for far-reaching or transformative regional impact on the objectives of the GFSS.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system will be developed in accordance with USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) 201.3.5-16 and USAID/West Africa Mission Orders on Monitoring and Evaluation. The MEL plan will also be developed in conformity with the priorities that guide the Regional Economic Growth Office's (REGO) MEL approaches and learning agenda, Science, Technology, Innovation Partnerships (STIP), and the Mission's geographic information system (GIS).

### Monitoring

To monitor progress in achieving the strategy's planned outcomes, the team will use FTF standard indicators where appropriate and develop as needed custom indicators that track results that are inherently achieved regionally. A list of illustrative indicators is proposed in Annex 3.

### Evaluating

In addition to performance monitoring, mid-term and final performance evaluations of the WA-FTF supported programs will be carried out, based on feedback from the field, performance data analysis,

information needs for decision making, etc. These evaluations will serve to obtain descriptive information on how the WA-FTF was implemented, why planned results were achieved or not, what results other than planned were obtained, how all results were perceived by potential beneficiaries, especially women and youth, etc. This knowledge will be used to inform the design of future agriculture and food security strategies.

### **Learning**

USAID/WA implements an active and structured learning strategy which is built upon the following pillars:

- Accumulating knowledge from systematic and intentional performance monitoring, strategic evaluations, periodic visits and dialogues with the field, secondary data and information from research in areas relevant to the WA-FTF and organizing and sharing knowledge in the region with bilateral missions and USAID partners through USAID/WA's newsletters, stakeholder meetings and training for partners.
- Staying up-to-date on MEL approaches and models.

In this regard, USAID/WA will broaden its role as a convener to scale lessons and best practices. The REGO learning agenda priorities, approved in June 2018, will be updated to reflect the new WA-FTF and updates to the Agency Policy Framework. Below is a set of illustrative learning questions that can be used to shape the learning agenda for the WA-FTF as it evolves:

- To align regional and national policy implementation plans and processes, at what point in time in the implementation process of a regional policy, should national governments/local authorities take over from regional organizations?
- What trade and transport models can realistically be applied in West Africa to reduce the time and cost to trade along the main corridors?
- Based on our understanding of cross-border trade, are there any community-based solutions that can successfully be implemented to support cross-border trade and reduce harassment of small-scale traders, particularly women?
- What type of private sector partnerships can be established that attract dynamic, engaged firms whose core business aims can synergize with USAID development outcomes? What are the most strategic approaches for financing private investment to support GFSS objectives in West Africa? How to avoid grants crowding out private investments?
- Are there models for storage and processing that can be scaled up in the region? What is the private sector's potential for replicating and managing new storage or processing facilities? Who are the private processors?
- What are the characteristics of agriculture inputs value chains in the region? To what extent are private sector actors in the chain investing in developing/expanding their smallholder clientele (e.g., additional services such as demonstration plots, information/advice, bundled with input purchases)? What are successful models for increasing farmers' access to new technologies? What are adoption rates? What constraints are they facing? Are there better technologies sitting on the shelves of research stations? Are there non-donor funded schemes that warrant modeling? Are there women-led schemes that warrant modeling? If there are no good examples in West Africa, should REGO take responsibility for introducing the region to what is taking place in other parts of the world?
- The Mission will work with its implementing partners and stakeholders to establish a learning agenda for gender and youth that guides program investment decisions.

- What kind of engagement with women and youth in regional organizations and processes is most likely to affect the types of policies and practices promoted and agreed on?

WA-FTF will utilize Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) approaches to engage stakeholders and obtain feedback on an ongoing basis. It will use real time information, iterative learning and analysis to continuously assess progress. The Mission will maintain the MEL plan as a living document that guides program budgeting, planning, implementation and reporting.

## Annex 1: Stakeholder Mapping

### Stakeholder Mapping of Existing and Potential Partners

Type of Organization	Name	Focus Area	Current or Future Relationship
Regional Economic Community (REC)	ECOWAS	NEPAD/CAADP implementation; Harmonization of standards for trade: in agricultural goods, seeds, fertilizer, food fortification, SPS; Removal of trade barriers, creation of CET, Customs Union, Free Trade Agreement; SPS: aflatoxin control, Livestock regional epidemiological surveillance and veterinary lab networks	Beneficiary/Implementing partner
REC	UEMOA	Sahel Focus area: economic integration; harmonization of SPS	Beneficiary/Implementing partner
Regional Organization/Specialized institution	CILSS	Sahel Focus area: Resilience, trade data, climate change, natural resources management; early warning surveillance for food security, pests, geospatial information services; pesticide registration authority	Beneficiary/Implementing partner
Regional Organization/Specialized institution	CORAF	Agricultural research and technologies and innovations. Focal areas: strengthening NARS, dissemination of climate-adapted crop varieties, bio-fortification, agricultural inputs collaboration, Innovation Platforms.	Beneficiary/Implementing partner
Specialized institution of ECOWAS	RAAF/ARAA	NEPAD/CAADP implementation	Beneficiary/Implementing partner
Specialized institution of ECOWAS	WAHO	Health, nutrition – including One Health approach	Beneficiary/Implementing partner
Specialized institution of ECOWAS	Regional Animal Health Center	National and regional strategies to control transboundary animal diseases; regional networks for labs, epidemio-surveillance; build capacity of national veterinary service; supports implementation and harmonization of emergency national plans	Beneficiary/Implementing partner
Continental Organization	AU-IBAR	Animal Health; SPS	Stakeholder/Potential partner

USAID/West Africa	Regional Health Office	Integrated Family planning and Mother/child health; strengthen WAHO capacity; surveillance & response to infectious disease threats	Complementary programming/stakeholder
	Regional Peace & Governance Office	Countering violent extremism (CVE) activities relevant to resilience DO in terms of peace and stability.	Complementary programming/stakeholder
	REGO – Trade, Environment and Energy teams.	Trade and Investment partnerships and technical assistance, including finance tools such as DCA NRM activities support building resilience	Complementary programming/Co-Funding
USAID	USAID Bilateral Missions and Offices in WA	Co-investing in Trade Hub programs to support private sector partnerships. Collaboration and coordination all areas of regional program, particularly policy implementation, SPS, agricultural inputs, and trade	Partner; Co-Investor
	Sahel Regional Office	National and local resilience building, addressing drivers of violent extremism in cross-border regions, technical leadership and learning	Partner
	OFDA Food for Peace	Disaster relief - non-food Post disaster development programs to build resilience Training in Household Economy Analysis	Partner Partner
	Center for Resilience	Collaboration to develop models for regional resilience	Partner
	BFS (Bureau of Food Security)	Identification of food safety, nutrition and SPS partnership priorities	Partner
	Global Health	Identify regional nutrition/food safety research priorities; opportunities for knowledge and best practices scaling	Partner
USG	State Dept	Diplomacy on policy dialogue; raise visibility of priority regional policy issues to higher levels in USG, the AU, and regional organizations; trade issues	Supporting partner
	USDA	Agriculture and trade policy dialogue, food safety & SPS	Supporting/Implementing partner

	<p>USTR</p> <p>DFC</p> <p>Commerce Dept.</p> <p>USTDA</p> <p>NASA</p> <p>USGS</p> <p>CDC</p> <p>MCC</p>	<p>capacity building, trade capacity building</p> <p>Promotion of fair, reciprocal trade that supports food security and regional self-reliance</p> <p>Finance that can address constraints to lending to agriculture; partial credit guarantees</p> <p>Facilitate access to U.S. technologies &amp; contacts between regional private sector companies and U.S. businesses</p> <p>Supporting agriculture investments and trade with links to U.S. technology and equipment</p> <p>Geospatial mapping, climate info services</p> <p>Landscape cover mapping and analysis</p> <p>Micronutrient surveillance pilots</p> <p>Work on agricultural inputs/fertilizer in Niger; resilience</p>	<p>Supporting partner</p> <p>Supporting Partner</p> <p>Supporting Partner</p> <p>Supporting Partner</p> <p>Supporting Partner</p> <p>Implementing Partner</p> <p>Supporting/Implementing Partner</p> <p>Possible partner</p> <p>Supporting partner</p>
CGIARs	<p>IITA</p> <p>IFPRI</p>	<p>Aflasafe commercialization</p> <p>Policy analytics &amp; support/ReSAKSS</p>	<p>Potential partner, Stakeholder</p> <p>Stakeholder</p>
UN system	<p>FAO</p> <p>UNICEF</p> <p>WFP</p>	<p>Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis, other analyses to inform policy in resilience; animal health; SPS; FAW</p> <p>Iodized salt; Nutrition in Cadre harmonisé</p> <p>Cadre Harmonisé</p>	<p>Supporting stakeholder</p> <p>Supporting stakeholder</p> <p>Supporting partner</p>
International Financial Organizations	<p>AfDB</p> <p>World Bank/IFC</p>	<p>Trade infrastructure, trade facilitation; trade finance, ag technologies scaling</p> <p>Trade infrastructure, trade facilitation; investment in agricultural firms, ag productivity; Sahel water resources program</p>	<p>Stakeholder</p> <p>Implementing Partner/ collaborator</p>

Bilateral Donors	DFID	Trade facilitation: support to businesses in staple foods production/processing for cross border trade	Stakeholder
	Netherlands GIZ	Trade facilitation Trade facilitation: trade policy implementation	Implementing Partner/ collaborators
	JICA	Support to UEMOA for Customs	Collaborator
Multilateral Donors	EU	Trade facilitation, resilience, food security, economic integration, support for trade & private sector	Collaborator
Other Development Partners	BMGF	Research on aflatoxin impact, innovations on KM and fortification vehicles in West Africa	Stakeholder
	AGRA	Seed industry development; NAIP implementation; trade facilitation; fertilizer	Collaborator
Private Sector	Fertilizer firms & associations	Fertilizer marketing and services, quality assurance, policy dialogue	Implementing partners, Collaborators and Stakeholders
Seed companies & associations	Seed market development, marketing and services, quality assurance, policy dialogue		
Food manufacturers & associations	Inclusive value chain development, fortification advocacy, policy dialogue		
Trade associations	Inclusive value chain development, policy dialogue		
Private laboratories	Quality testing for fertilizers, food products		
Financial service providers (banks, private equity, insurance, etc)	Inclusive financial services and products		

## Annex 2: Linkages between Bilateral/Country and WA Regional FTF Programs

USAID/WA is committed to pursuing its work with key regional and national institutions and USAID bilateral Missions and the USAID Sahel Regional Office to support and accelerate the implementation of the West African regional agenda of food security, resilience and nutrition. Specifically, USAID/WA is committed to working with bilateral missions in Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, to complement and add value to their programs, and to accelerate implementation on shared national priorities. USAID/WA is also committed to partnering with the Sahel Regional Office on addressing resilience and violent extremism in the Sahel, including synergistic development and dissemination of technologies, shared learning, and collaborative engagement with regional institutions.

USAID/WA participated in all bilateral mission stakeholder meetings on GFSS, provided input into their draft GFSS document and participated in Washington-bilateral phone calls in the lead-up to and the final review of their strategy documents. FtF staff from GFSS target Missions, Sahel Regional Office, and some GFSS aligned countries participated in USAID/WA's 2018 stakeholder consultation and strategy development workshop.<sup>45</sup>

Below is a map showing the zones of influence for FtF programming in the five GFSS target countries of West Africa. Following the map is a Table that outlines areas of ongoing and potential collaboration between USAID West Africa and these five countries and the Sahel Regional Office.

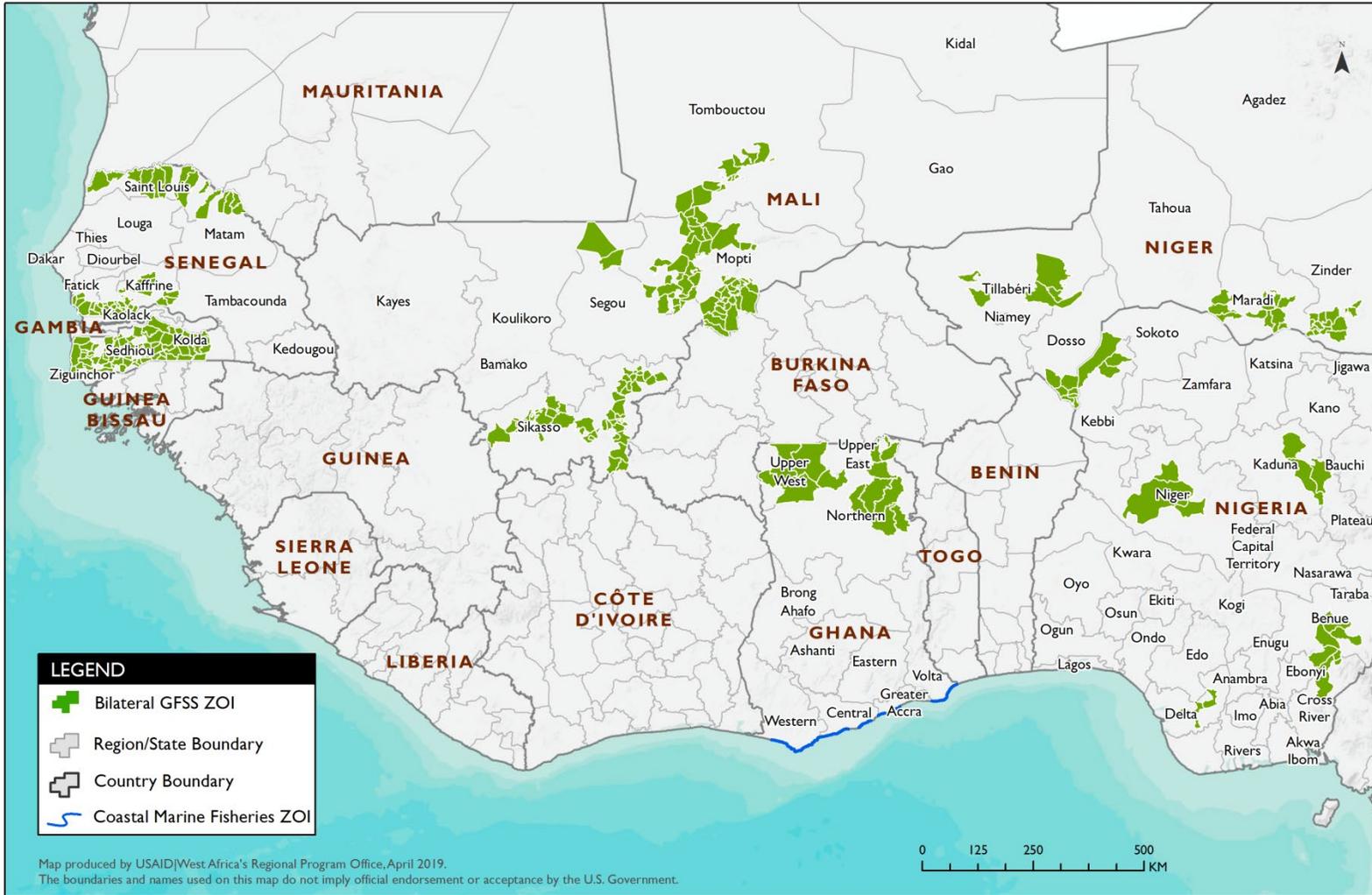
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<sup>45</sup> USAID WEST AFRICA REGIONAL MISSION GFSS REGIONAL STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT MEETING Draft Report. 2018

Figure 2. Map showing Zones of Influence of GFSS Target Countries in West Africa



GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY ZOI FOR WEST AFRICA



The Table below indicates areas of ongoing and potential collaboration between GFSS target countries, the Sahel Regional Office, and USAID/West Africa GFSS activities.

**Country GFSS/ WA-FTF linkages**

<b><i>Nigeria</i></b>	
<p><b>National/ Regional linkages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Private sector engagement</li> <li>● Co-invested partnerships under the upcoming West Africa Trade and Investment Hub for private sector partnerships to scale and support agricultural industries that require regional sourcing and distribution solutions.</li> <li>● Through West Africa Trade Facilitation Project support reduced barriers to formal and informal trade along the major road corridors linking the Sahelian and coastal countries including Nigeria.</li> <li>● Through CORAF and IFDC develop agro-ecologically based agri-Inputs packages and provide support for the implementation of ag input policies, including for Nigeria</li> <li>● Strengthen capacity of ECOWAS Member States, including Nigeria, to effectively and efficiently implement and periodically review their NAIP-FSN.</li> <li>● Build a robust web-based M&amp;E system that would enhance systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination of ag data for informed decision making at the regional and at country level, including Nigeria.</li> <li>● Work with Club du Sahel and West Africa, CILSS and other members of Regional Food Crisis Prevention Network to strengthen the quality of national food security and vulnerability data collection systems, analysis capacity, and response planning/action.</li> <li>● Build capacity of National Plant Protection Officials (NPPO) on pest and disease surveillance to help prevent fall armyworm-induced production losses and food insecurity in Nigeria.</li> <li>● Tracking and analyzing the risks and vulnerabilities of affected populations; and integrating them into policy-making and support vulnerable populations to respond to shocks and stresses.</li> <li>● Potential learning/exchange opportunity on implementation of the National Strategic Plan of Action for Nutrition and Improvement of the nutrition status of vulnerable groups in Nigeria</li> </ul>	<p><b>Targeted Value Chains:</b> Aquaculture, Cowpea, Maize, Rice, and Soybean</p> <p><b>Budget: \$26M (2018)</b></p> <p><b>Zone of Influence (ZOI):</b> Seven (out of 36) Nigerian states: Benue, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Kebbi and Niger</p>

***Mali***

<p><b>National/ Regional linkages</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seed policy reform</li> <li>● Through CORAF and IFDC develop agro-ecologically based agri-inputs packages and provide support for the implementation of ag input policies, including for Mali</li> <li>● Through West Africa Trade Facilitation Project support reduce barriers to formal and informal trade along the major road corridors linking the Sahelian and coastal countries including Mali.</li> <li>● Strengthen capacity of ECOWAS Member States, including Mali, to effectively and efficiently implement and periodically review their NAIP-FSN.</li> <li>● Build a robust web-based M&amp;E system that would enhance systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination of ag data for informed decision making at the regional and at country level, including Mali.</li> <li>● Build capacity of National Plant Protection Officials (NPPO) on pest and disease surveillance to help prevent fall armyworm-induced production losses and food insecurity in Mali</li> <li>● Work with Club du Sahel and West Africa, CILSS and other members of Regional Food Crisis Prevention Network to strengthen the quality of national food security and vulnerability data collection systems, analysis capacity, and response planning/action.</li> <li>● Pilot locust swarm predictive tools that will increase national response capacity through the use of geospatial tools of higher resolution and temporal accuracy</li> <li>● Integration of informal agricultural trade data monitoring approaches to national statistics entities</li> <li>● Potential learning/exchange opportunity: USAID/Mali effort to align GFSS program to national policies such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. National Agriculture Investment Plan (2015-2025)</li> <li>ii. National Nutrition Policy (2013-2023),</li> <li>iii. Nutrition Action Plan (2014-2018),</li> <li>iv. Priority Country Resilience Strategy (2018 – 2025)</li> <li>v. Development of next Malian Nutrition Action Plan (2019-2023)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Targeted Value Chains:</b> Horticulture, rice, livestock, maize, poultry oilseeds</p> <p><b>Budget: \$24M (2018)</b></p> <p><b>ZOI:</b> The central/northern Mopti Region sub-zone (#1) and the southern Sikasso Region sub-zone (#2). In the Mopti sub-zone, sixteen communes within four circles (Youwarou, Tenenkou, Bandiagara, and Douentza) plus 11 others where Feed the Future programs can be layered with existing health, Food for Peace, climate change, and democracy and governance (DRG) programming.</p>
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## Senegal

### National/ Regional linkages

- Build capacity of National Plant Protection Officials (NPPO) on pest and disease surveillance to help prevent fall armyworm-induced production losses and food insecurity in Senegal.
- Through CORAF and IFDC develop agro-ecologically based agri-inputs packages and provide support for the implementation of ag input policies, including for Senegal.
- Strengthen capacity of Senegalese Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) to provide geospatial information on ephemeral water bodies, rangeland vegetation, and forage production to improve well-being and resilience of pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities.
- Through West Africa Trade Facilitation Project support reduce barriers to formal and informal trade along the major road corridors linking the Sahelian and coastal countries including Senegal.
- Co-invested partnerships under the upcoming West Africa Trade and Investment Hub for private sector partnerships to scale and support agricultural industries that require regional sourcing and distribution solutions.
- Strengthen capacity of ECOWAS Member States, including Senegal, to effectively and efficiently implement and periodically review their NAIP-FSN.
- Build a robust web-based M&E system that would enhance systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination of ag data for informed decision making at the regional and at country level, including Senegal.
- Work with Club du Sahel and West Africa, CILSS and other members of Regional Food Crisis Prevention Network to strengthen national response plans and quality of national food security and vulnerability data collection systems.
- Pilot locust swarm predictive tools that will increase national response capacity through the use of geospatial tools of higher resolution and temporal accuracy.
- Integration of informal agricultural trade data monitoring approaches to national statistics entities
- Barriers to medium- and long-term finance for trade.
- Incentives to address the investment gaps in public goods.
- Input subsidies: non-trade distorting measures.
- Food safety regulatory systems.
- Policy dialogue and mutual accountability.
- Fertilizer Standards Conformity Control.
- Regional and international trade promotion.
- Private sector competitiveness.

**Targeted Value Chains:**  
key cereal, horticulture, livestock, and fish commodities

**Budget: \$25M (2018)**

**ZOI:** 129 communes located in 18 departments across 8 administrative regions (Saint Louis, Matam, Fatick, Kaolack, Kaffrine, Ziguinchor, Sedhiou, and Kolda).

## ***Niger and the Sahel Regional Office***

### **National /Regional linkages**

- Livestock trade.
- SPS on livestock and poultry.
- Trade of nutritious foods into Niger and Burkina.
- Agricultural Inputs Policies – coherent with regional
- Niger Seed Forum.
- Build capacity of National Plant Protection Officials (NPPO) on pest and disease surveillance to help prevent fall armyworm-induced production losses and food insecurity in Niger.
- Through CORAF and IFDC develop agro-ecologically based agri-inputs packages and provide support for the implementation of ag input policies, including for Niger and Burkina Faso Seed and Fertilizer Forum – planned.
- Resilience: Free flow of food in times of crisis.
- Strengthen capacity of ECOWAS Member States, including Niger, to effectively and efficiently implement and periodically review their NAIP-FSN.
- Build a robust web-based M&E system that would enhance systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination of ag data for informed decision making at the regional and at country level, including Niger.
- Participate in an interagency process, working with NASA, USGS, MCC, AGRHYMET and NGO partners to generate accurate geospatial information on groundwater location and recharge capacity to improve well-being and resilience of agropastoralist communities
- Pilot locust swarm predictive tools that will increase national response capacity through the use of geospatial tools of higher resolution and temporal accuracy.
- Work with Club du Sahel and West Africa, CILSS and other members of Regional Food Crisis Prevention Network to strengthen the quality of national food security and vulnerability data collection systems, analysis capacity, and response planning/action.
- Through West Africa Trade Facilitation Project support reduce barriers to formal and informal trade along the major road corridors linking the Sahelian and coastal countries including Niger and Burkina Faso.
- Integration of informal agricultural trade data monitoring approaches to national statistics entities
- Conduct investment mapping and explore potential private sector partnerships in Niger and Burkina Faso.
- Explore opportunity with Sahel Regional Office on establishing a Sahel agricultural research dissemination hub based in CORAF.

### **Targeted Value Chains:**

Small ruminants, poultry, cowpea, market systems for rural foods

### **Budget: \$15M (2018)**

**ZOI:** specific communes in Maradi and Zinder and Tillaberi under RISE and SDP, as well as specific communes in N’Konni and Gaya under MCC

## Ghana

### **National/ Regional linkages**

- Facilitate increased investment in high-value commodities, including shea, expanding jobs and incomes and increasing exports.
- Liberalization and facilitation of trade.
- Build capacity of National Plant Protection Officials (NPPO) on pest and disease surveillance to help prevent fall armyworm-induced production losses and food insecurity in Ghana.
- Policy harmonization and domesticating regional policies and strategies
- Linking NPPOs to a West African network to increase and harmonize regional FAW monitoring and mitigation efforts
- Increase the trade of Ghanaian-produced seed and Ghanaian-processed fortified foods
- Co-invest in partnerships under the upcoming West Africa Trade and Investment Hub to increase investment in high-value agricultural crops, especially export crops.
- Through CORAF and IFDC develop agro-ecologically based ag inputs packages and provide support for the implementation of ag input policies, including for Ghana.
- Strengthen capacity of ECOWAS Member States, including Ghana, to effectively and efficiently implement and periodically review their NAIP-FSN.
- Build a robust web-based M&E system that would enhance systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination of ag data for informed decision making at the regional and at country level, including Ghana.
- Support promotion of smart Input subsidy policies

### **Targeted Value Chains:**

Maize, soybean, groundnut, cowpea, coastal marine fisheries, shea.

**Budget: \$35M (2018)**

### **ZOI and target population:**

Focusing on 17 districts, Feed the Future expects to reach at least 100,000 beneficiaries per year in northern Ghana.

Should Feed the Future expand to 20 districts, it expects to reach approximately 150,000 to 180,000 beneficiaries.

## Annex 3: Illustrative Indicators

**Note: The Mission is working with implementing partners to identify appropriate meaningful custom indicators to measure regional investments**

### Illustrative Performance and Context Indicators

Result	Performance indicators	Context indicators
<b>DO 1: Expanded inclusive agriculture-related regional and international trade, markets and investment.</b>	<p>EG.3.1-14: Value of new USG commitments and private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security and nutrition</p> <p>EG.3.2-27: Value of agriculture-related financing accessed because of USG assistance</p> <p>Custom: Value of targeted agricultural commodities exported with USG assistance.</p>	Custom: Value of intra-regional trade in agricultural commodities
IR 1: Reduced barriers to trade	<p>Custom: Change in time required to trade goods across borders and along corridors with USG support (percent change)</p> <p>Custom: Change in cost to trade goods across borders and along with USG support (percent change)</p>	
IR 2: Increased private sector competitiveness	<p>Custom: Value of new agricultural exports in project assisted firms</p> <p>EG.3.2-22: Value of new private sector capital investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by Feed the Future implementation</p> <p>Custom: Number of new jobs created in project assisted firms</p> <p>Custom: Value of new financing to clients in targeted sectors;</p> <p>EG.3.2-19: Value of smallholder incremental sales generated with USG assistance</p>	
IR 3: Agriculture-related technologies scaled regionally	<p>EG.3.2-7: Number of technologies, practices and approaches under various phases of research development, and uptake as a result of USG assistance</p> <p>EG.3.2-24: Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance</p> <p>EG.3.2-25: Number of hectares under improved</p>	

	<p>management practices or technologies with USG assistance</p> <p>Custom: % change in volume of improved varieties of seeds utilized because of USG assistance</p> <p>Custom: % change in volume (MT) in fertilizer consumption in ECOWAS member countries</p>	
<b>DO 2: Increased resilience through management of shocks, risks and stresses</b>	<p>Custom: Number of countries that mobilized support for their most vulnerable population (Phases 3-5) following the release of Cadre Harmonisé generated data and analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● % of support mobilized from country resources</li> <li>● % of support mobilized from regional reserve resources/funds</li> <li>● % mobilized from external sources-donors</li> </ul> <p>This information will validate Region's /country's J2SR in meeting food insecurity.</p>	
IR 4: Enhanced social & ecological regional risk management systems	RESIL-1: Number of host government or community-derived risk management plans formally proposed, adopted, implemented or institutionalized with USG assistance	
IR 5: Strengthened regional mechanisms, surveillance and response to vulnerabilities.	Custom: Number of countries with operational Early Warning Systems	
<b>DO 3: Increased access to safe and nutritious foods</b>	Indicators will be established to measure planned investments on:	
IR 6: Strengthened food safety system in West Africa	TBD	

IR 7: Improved Nutrition monitoring and surveillance systems	TBD	
IR 8: Harmonized and scaled regional fortification and biofortification policies and technologies	1) Number of countries adopting fortification policies for specific products 2) Number of countries adopting regional harmonized bio-fortification policy	
<b>Cross-cutting Results</b>		
<b>CCR 1: Strengthened global commitment to investing in food security</b>	TBD	FTF Context-22: Food security and nutrition funding as reported to the OECD DAC
<b>CCR 2: Harmonized policies, regulations and standards implemented</b>	These will be tracked through the Policy Matrix	
<b>CCR 3: Strengthened regional systems and institutions</b>	TBD	
<b>CCR 4: Increased gender equality, female and youth empowerment and improved livelihoods</b>	GNDR-2: Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources  YOUTH-3: Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29)	

## Annex 4: Regional GFSS Development Objective Linkages

Development Objective	DO 1 Trade, investment and agricultural technologies	DO 2 Resilience	DO 3: Increased access to safe and nutritious foods
<p><i>DO 1 Trade, investment and agricultural technologies contributes to</i> →</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decreased cost of traded foods, produce, ag inputs /technologies can lower prices of traded commodities, including nutritionally important products such as fortified foods, biofortified crops, and animal and horticultural products.</li> <li>● Changes in trade policy can increase opportunities for small traders</li> <li>● Improving access to the larger regional market, especially for small producers and traders (including women, youth, other vulnerable populations) can decrease price and volume volatility in domestic markets, making them more resilient.</li> <li>● Inclusive value chains can increase economic opportunities for vulnerable/disadvantaged populations</li> <li>● Prioritizing agriculture value chains that are nutrition-sensitive where possible can lead to increased availability, improved nutrition as well as increased economic opportunities.</li> <li>● Increased availability of quality ag inputs/ technologies (seed, fertilizer, pesticides, climate smart agriculture practices, post-harvest management) that can decrease risk and improve food quality</li> <li>● Biofortified products developed that can increase diversity of foods available in markets and improve nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decreased cost of trade can lower prices of traded commodities, including nutritionally important products such as fortified foods, biofortified crops, and animal and horticultural products that have important nutritional attributes</li> <li>● Could increase quantity (through use of improved inputs) and diversity of foods available in markets</li> <li>● if DO 1 invests in nutritionally important value chains, then there could be improved quality production and availability of these agricultural products.</li> <li>● Additional bio-fortified products developed through regional research networks</li> <li>● Research on mycotoxin prevention and control</li> <li>● CORAF can identify product diversification options in value chains with potential for nutritional impact.</li> <li>● Through CORAF's regional technology dissemination networks and Innovation Platforms, technologies such as improved post-harvest handling and aflatoxin mitigation practices can be widely disseminated.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research on prevention and management of pests and infestations.</li> <li>● Research on mycotoxin prevention and control</li> <li>● Through CORAF's regional technology dissemination networks and Innovation Platforms, technologies such as improved post-harvest handling and aflatoxin mitigation practices can be widely disseminated.</li> <li>● Support geospatial information services for helping countries monitor and respond to locust swarms.</li> <li>● Improved food safety/SPS standards can improve health</li> <li>● Decreased pests and infestations can result in higher ag production and improve food security</li> <li>● Decreased zoonosis will improve human health</li> <li>● Nutrition-sensitive ag approaches can improve nutrition</li> </ul>	
<p><i>DO 2 Resilience contributes to</i> →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Geo-spatial information to farmers can lead to increased productivity and volumes for trade</li> <li>● Surveillance systems can mitigate negative impacts on trade</li> </ul>	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Malnutrition and vulnerability/food insecurity surveillance and response systems can identify nutrition hotspots.</li> </ul>
<p><i>DO 3: Increased access to safe and nutritious foods contributes to</i> →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Harmonized standards for safe foods, and fortified foods can enhance regional and international trade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improved food safety standards can improve health</li> <li>● Improved nutritional monitoring and surveillance that complements food insecurity monitoring &amp; surveillance will improve responses to each stressor.</li> <li>● Nutrition-sensitive ag approaches can improve nutrition</li> </ul>	X

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased numbers of ECOWAS countries adopting harmonized standards for food fortification will enhance nutritional status.</li> <li>● Increased numbers of products that are fortified will enhance nutritional status.</li> <li>● Increased number of crops that can be bio-fortified and commonly consumed will enhance nutritional status.</li> <li>● Implementation of aflatoxin action plan &amp; research on mycotoxin prevention and control</li> </ul>	
<i>Regional Peace &amp; Governance activities contributes to</i> →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Peace and stability attract investment in economic development, including regional and international trade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decreased conflict and violent extremism allows communities to build the continuum of resilience capacities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Peace and stability can foster development investments in food security, including in improving nutrition</li> </ul>
<i>Regional Health Office activities contributes to</i> →		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build regional capacity for coordinated and effective approaches to facilitate implementation of the One Health approach through improved coordination between WAHO, RAHC, and ECOWAS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Build regional capacity for coordinated and effective approaches to facilitate implementation of the One Health approach through improved coordination between WAHO, RAHC, and ECOWAS.</li> </ul>
<i>Regional Environment Team activities contributes to</i> →		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improved natural resource management ensures critical environmental and livelihood services are protected</li> </ul>	