



## Responding to impacts of the global food crisis in Western Africa

Programme factsheet



Food Production	Macroeconomic	Development & Humanitarian
Agricultural inputs, supply chain and access challenges	Energy crisis	Food security crisis
Trade barriers, export bans	Economic and political instability	Increased population displacement
Supply chain: ports, roads, storage	Growing debt	Risk of reduced funding availability for another crisis across the globe



## Unprecedented food crisis looming

Today, one in every seven of the acutely food insecure people in the world lives in Western Africa where hunger has quadrupled in 2022.

Even before the Russia-Ukraine conflict, people in the region were facing a perfect storm of the four “Cs” - climate change, conflict, COVID-19 and the rising cost of food and fuel, pushing millions of the poorest and most vulnerable toward food and nutrition insecurity.

One of the most immediate additional impacts of the conflict in Ukraine is on food production. West Africa is facing a major and unprecedented fertiliser deficit (1.2-1.5m tons, equivalent to 10-20m tons of grain), expected to reduce by up to 25 percent agricultural production in 2022 and beyond.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is further undermining the abilities of African governments and development partners to address the adverse effects of the four “Cs” by disrupting supply chains, contributing to inflation and indebtedness,

and heightening inequalities and vulnerabilities in a context still confronting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Food systems in Western Africa are characterized by long, concentrated, energy-intensive supply chains. This situation, when combined with other trends and lack of economic resilience, has made the region uniquely vulnerable to the supply chain disruptions precipitated by the Ukraine conflict.

Global food price increases, and regional and international trade restrictions and supply chain disruptions, are harming access to and availability of much-needed global food and non-food commodities in the region.

Unaffordability of food at ten year highs is contributing to drastically rising cost of living caused by food and fuel prices, and exacerbating malnutrition at a time when half of households already cannot afford nutritious food and malnutrition rates are at their highest. This could also fuel further unrest across the region.

Finally, the conflict in Ukraine is impacting the capacity of humanitarian actors. WFP has increased operational costs, while facing the risk of reduced funding.

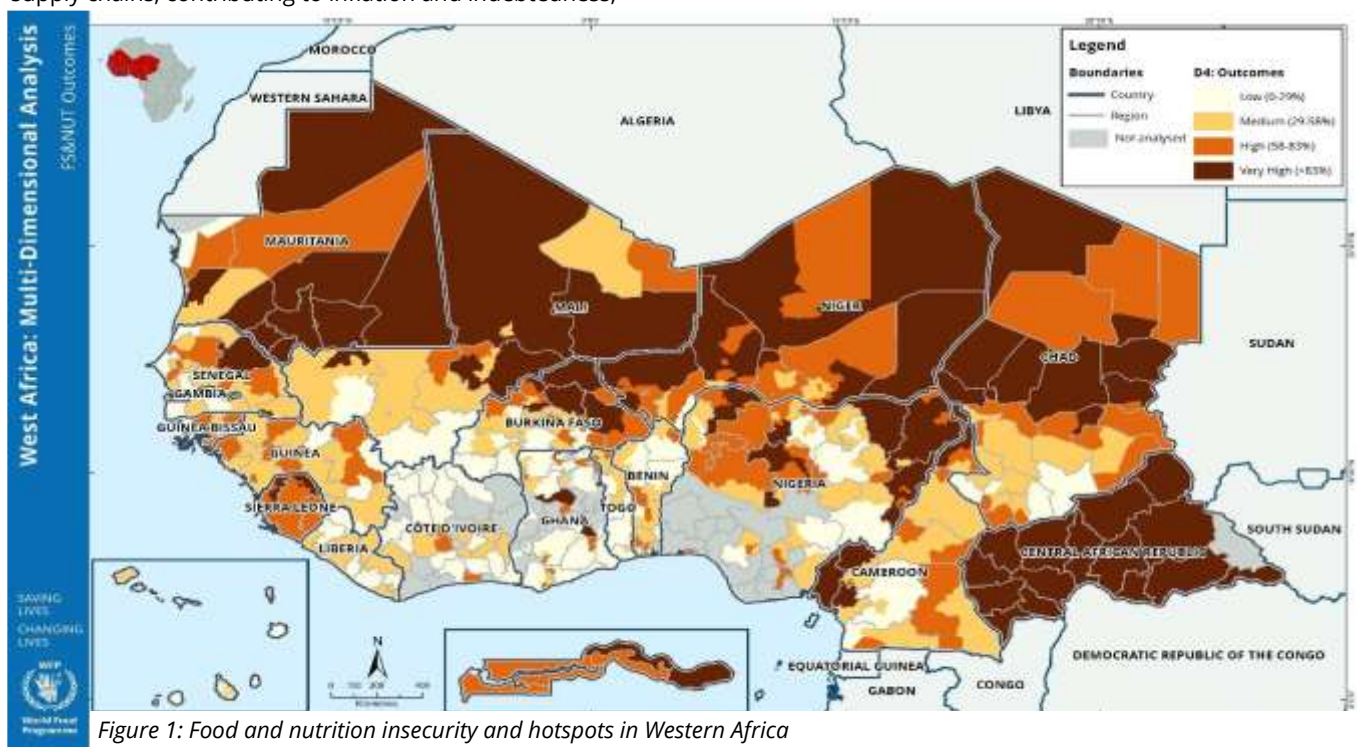


Figure 1: Food and nutrition insecurity and hotspots in Western Africa

# The focus of WFP in Western Africa is supporting supply and demand side interventions which increase food availability, access and affordability for vulnerable people

## 6 months (June-December 2022)

**Food access crisis** as Ukraine conflict disrupts global food, fuel and fertilizer markets, leading to spiralling food prices and supply chain disruption

### Direct food and nutrition assistance

Safeguarding and scaling up humanitarian assistance where the food crisis threatens to increase mortality and harm long-term nutrition and wellbeing. Also boosting specialized nutritional food (SNF) availability in the region.

### 'Cash First' approach

Utilizing unrestricted cash transfers wherever feasible, including in urban settings, and through existing government social protection systems.

### Supporting governments with food, seeds, fertilizer

Responding rapidly to government calls for seeds, fertilizer, food items, and other inputs.

### Reinforcing national social protection systems

Utilising existing government delivery systems for payments, topping up or replicating interventions. Conducting critical baseline assessments, strengthening partnerships.

### Boosting off-season investments

Increasing off-season (post October) investment in local food and fertilizer production and boosting compost making and land rehabilitation for off-season crops.

### Heightened analysis and advocacy

Increased frequency of monitoring to alert on rising hunger and malnutrition hotspots, step-up early warning, and provide leadership in the design of scenarios and crisis trajectories, data and evidence provision, and use of platforms such as Technical Barriers to Trade surveillance.

## 12 months (2023)

**Food availability crisis** as disruption to fertilizer supply translates into poor agricultural output in late 2022/early 2023, thereby creating a growing deficit of grain and other staples

### Direct food, nutrition assistance and protecting systems

Preventing increased mortality by scaling up and adapting preparedness, internal support mechanisms, direct delivery, and leveraging transfers (cash and vouchers) to boost purchasing power and local food systems.

### Strengthening local production

Supporting smallholder farmers with technical capacity and funds, and developing market support programmes. Improving capacity in post-harvest loss management through training and equipment transfers.

### Supporting governments with diversified procurement

Guiding governments to minimise their exposure to ongoing global and regional disruptions. Procuring, tracking, and expediting global, regional, and local goods and services, including agricultural equipment and inputs.

### Strengthening food systems

Improving diets through local food chains by increasing availability and affordability of nutritious foods. Promoting purchases of commodities and SNF on local and regional markets, from smallholders and traders to stimulate local production and stabilize markets. Influencing regulatory frameworks to support the food environment. Creating a dashboard to track and analyse national procurement (including Home-Grown School Feeding). Increasing consumption of diverse foods, using SBCC to promote nutritious diets.

### Expanding national social protection systems

Providing technical assistance to design, adjust, and/or expand social assistance programmes focused on household food security and nutritional needs and/or directly delivering assistance, including cash and school feeding.

### Joint analysis and advocacy

Transitioning from retrospective to forecast analyses for governments to adapt and integrate into national response and social protection plans for 2023, and with ECOWAS jointly discouraging export bans. Promoting renewed solidarity, including jointly with international financial institutions and partners.



## WFP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN NUMBERS



People in **acute food insecurity** in 2022 **43m**



People WFP is aiming to support **18.9m**



Total **WFP funding needs** 2022 **\$1.195bn**



Current **funding gap** for 2022 **\$720m**

