



Food Systems in Crises

CRIALCES project factsheet

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



CRIALCES IN NUMBERS

	€ COST (MILLIONS)	DURATION (YEARS)	COUNTRIES
KEY FACTS	21	2	3
	Cost shared by WFP and the EU Trust Fund for Africa	2020-2022	Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger

CRIALCES — Food Crisis in the Central Sahel

In Central Sahel countries, the food security and nutritional status of the population and especially women and children 6-23 months is severely compromised, and worsening amid colliding crises of conflict, climate change, Covid-19 and now skyrocketing costs of food, fuel and fertilizer. But also because of severely disrupted food systems which leave almost three quarters of households in some regions unable to afford to eat enough or even any nutritious food.

In June 2022, the number of food insecure and malnourished people in the Central Sahel was estimated at 12.7 million people—three times the figure for 2019. Six million children are expected to be acutely malnourished in 2022, with millions more at risk.

In this context it is essential to ensure a balance between emergency responses to acute shocks, and approaches which strengthen systems and improve countries, communities, and individuals resilience to future shocks.

The CRIALCES (Réponse à la crise Alimentaire au Centre Sahel) project was launched in July 2020 in Burkina Faso, Mali

and Niger in response to the food and nutrition crises exacerbated by insecurity in the Liptako Gourma area, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

CRIALCES is an innovative approach to improving nutrition by strengthening national food systems in volatile settings. The project aims to improve the nutritional status of women and children in the targeted areas, while reversing negative trends with regards to economic and job opportunities.

Since 2020, building on prior WFP experience in food systems strengthening in West Africa, the CRIALCES project has been applying a food systems approach.

CRIALCES is reinforcing simultaneously the capability and capacity of producers of nutritious foods; supporting transformation of products into complementary foods for distribution in markets and shops; improving national analytical capacities for monitoring markets and the prices of nutritious foods; and supporting access to and demand for nutritious food by vulnerable communities.

CRIALCES is being delivered by WFP with the support of The European Commission. It is implemented in collaboration with national governments, the private sector, and civil society.



Today, in parts of the West African Sahel, only one in eight children and one in four women consume the quantity and quality of foods needed to survive, grow, learn, and contribute fully to their families and communities.

The CRIALCES project spans the three main components of food systems:

SUPPLY



SUPPORTING NUTRITIOUS FOOD PRODUCTION & PRODUCERS

WFP is working with smallholder farmers organizations throughout the Sahel to increase their members' production of safe, affordable nutritious foods, and to improve their ability to access markets for their food products. Through Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) WFP is integrating new foods and food sources into the value chain for nutritional products, including complementary foods.

- ◆ 66,156 farmers trained and/or equipped to produce quality nutritious foods



SUPPORT TO PROCESSING OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS

To improve nutritious foods producers' capability to produce larger quantities of higher quality products, WFP is supporting artisanal, semi-industrial, and industrial companies with food processing and fortification operations. Outcomes are improved production, storage, and distribution of products, achieved through technical and financial support and direct assistance (through partners) including training, equipment, and advice on bringing nutritional local products to market, especially in crisis zones.

- ◆ 20 companies targeted for support

FOOD ENVIRONMENT



IMPROVING STANDARDS AND CONTROLS

To ensure that locally processed nutritional products are produced safely and reliably WFP is building the capacity of national standards and control bodies. Support includes revitalizing national food fortification committees and platforms for public-private collaboration, training national control agencies, and reviewing, developing, and harmonizing norms and standards for processed products.

- ◆ 4 national norms/laws targeted for revision



MONITORING NUTRITIOUS FOOD MARKET PRICES & AVAILABILITY

In all CRIALCES countries WFP conducted the Nutrient Gap analyses, and continuously monitors price and availability of a broad basket of products that correspond to the eating habits of vulnerable people. The results support both advocacy on diet diversification and improved social protection and health system targeting, and for WFP seasonal adjustments of food rations and cash transfers. The project also contributes to strengthening capacities of national partners involved in data collection.

- ◆ Nutritious foods being monitored in 200 markets

DEMAND



MAKING NUTRITIOUS FOODS AFFORDABLE

WFP has set up a cash-based transfer programme for mothers of children 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women in target regions. Beneficiaries use WFP electronic vouchers to purchase nutritious foods directly from retailers contracted by WFP. This stimulates the market for nutritious foods, strengthens the quality and quantity of local supply, and develops/supports demand.

- ◆ 51,726 children and pregnant/lactating women with improved access to nutritious foods



DRIVING DEMAND FOR NUTRITIOUS FOODS

WFP is engaging in social and behaviour change communications to encourage changes in households' purchasing and consumption of food habits. This also increases the organic demand for nutritious foods in local markets, and overall consumption of nutritious foods, and reinforces national capacities for social and behaviour change communications.

- ◆ 240,634 people at the individual and community levels reached with social and behaviour change communications campaigns



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