



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

2022

WESTERN AFRICA ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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FOREWORD

2022 was a year of unprecedented challenges for the World Food Programme (WFP) in West Africa, with effects of both domestic and global conflicts, the lingering repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of climate hazards such as floods, and the rising costs of fertiliser, fuel and food affecting most countries in the region and leaving almost 32.4 million people in food insecurity.

Nevertheless, 2022 was also a year of great achievement for WFP in the region. Despite the numerous challenges, WFP managed to assist a record number of people vulnerable to food insecurity while strengthening its support to governments in the region. This second edition of WFP's Annual Achievements in West Africa is a testament to WFP's commitment and support towards saving and changing lives.

During the year, WFP responded on a massive scale, reaching 21.4 million people in the region through food, cash, and capacity-strengthening assistance. This includes 16.9 million residents, 2.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 1.3 million refugees, and 0.3 million returnees and represents 13 percent of the number of people WFP served in 2022 worldwide. WFP scaled up its cash assistance, transferring over USD 445 million, a 38 percent rise compared to 2021, in its commitment to better assist the most vulnerable in meeting their basic needs.

WFP could not do this alone. In 2022, WFP partnered with 248 cooperating partners on the ground, governments in the region, other UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector,

regional bodies, and donors, whose resources helped avert critical gaps.

Saving lives remained WFP's top priority. For example, in Burkina Faso, one of the biggest operations in West Africa, 1.3 million people benefited from life-saving unconditional cash transfers in 2022. WFP's malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes reached 198,000 children under five years of age and 140,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. WFP's school feeding activities benefited more than 204,000 schoolchildren. School feeding continued to be essential for the health and cognitive development of children, including those whose lives had been disrupted by conflict.

In addition, WFP strengthened its efforts to changing lives in the region by building the resilience of vulnerable households and communities to better withstand shocks and stressors, including the effects of climate change. Climate-smart approaches linked stressors, ecosystems, and resilience activities coherently. Through its Sahel Integrated Resilience Programme, WFP's approach integrated land restoration interventions, asset-building with home-based and nutrition-sensitive activities, home-grown school feeding, and support to smallholder agricultural markets to provide comprehensive support to targeted communities.

WFP operations stimulated trade and the regional economy as WFP moved about 400,000 metric tons of food into West Africa in 2022, injecting some USD 241 million into the regional and local economies. USD 168 million were spent on local food procurement and USD 73 million on logistics services to move food commodities.

WFP recognises the generosity of its donors who made the support to 21.4 million people in need of food assistance possible. In 2022, a total of USD 1.4 billion in new contributions was received for WFP's activities in West Africa.



Chris Nikoi
Regional Director for
Western Africa

PREAMBLE

The World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Bureau for Western Africa (RBD) supports life-saving and life-changing operations and activities in twenty countries. WFP, through the Regional Bureau, works with governments in the region, the humanitarian community, other UN Agencies, international finance institutions, academia, cooperating partners, and civil society groups to maximise an efficient response to food insecurity, nutrition challenges, and humanitarian crises in the face of dire effects of climate change and conflict.

Despite the region's resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of increased conflict, climate-related shocks, the global food crisis, and the Ukraine crisis deterred many gains made and required huge emergency responses. WFP provided life-changing and life-saving support specific to each Country Strategic Plan (CSP) and aligned with country-specific priorities linked to selected Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) and national development frameworks. WFP's operations covered areas on emergency preparedness and response, food systems, social protection, nutrition, and school feeding.

WFP was a partner of choice for most governments in the region and continued to provide the needed support not only to people and communities targeted for assistance but also to governments, partners, and the humanitarian community.



SAVING LIVES & CHANGING LIVES

Unconditional relief assistance accounted for the biggest number of people WFP served in 2022, with over 13 million people receiving assistance through either cash-based transfers or in-kind commodities, underpinning the critical importance of emergency response in the region.

Lives were also saved as nearly 2 million women and children were treated for malnutrition, whereas malnutrition prevention reached 1.3 million children. Underfunding affected the reach of malnutrition prevention in countries like Cameroon, where, due to insufficient and late availability of funding for nutrition, the preparatory phase of nutrition activities started in October 2022. In the Central African Republic, nutrition activities suffered a significant funding gap, causing a shortage of nutrition commodities for most of 2022. This hindered the implementation of prevention and treatment activities for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

WFP also worked with governments and local partners to change lives by responding to increased climate-related disasters in the region, building the resilience of vulnerable people, and strengthening the national systems through anticipatory action and climate adaptation activities. Under these interventions, WFP reached 1 million people with climate adaptation interventions, a 39 percent increase compared to 2021. Similarly, strides were made under the school feeding programme as over 3.6 million school-going children were reached in the region. While positive outcomes were reported in supported schools, insecurity remained among the challenges affecting education outcomes, and, in countries like Guinea, underfunding was also a limiting factor.

Further, WFP supported over 149,000 smallholder farmers with over 78,000 metric tons of food procured from them. Cumulatively, WFP injected over USD 53 million into the local economies buying directly from smallholders.

In 2022, WFP continued to be an enabler of humanitarian response, especially in the

region's hard-to-reach areas, by providing supply chain services to partners and governments. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported over 33,000 metric tons of humanitarian cargo and over 89,800 people.

Looking ahead to 2023, RBD, working with development and humanitarian partners, governments, and donors, will maintain excellence in emergency response. WFP will further streamline capabilities to meet escalating humanitarian needs while pursuing innovative solutions in prevention and resilience that break the cycle of food insecurity.

IN NUMBERS

21.4 MILLION

BENEFICIARIES REACHED IN 2022



53%
FEMALES



1,479,153
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



BENEFICIARIES BY RESIDENCE STATUS



16,878,998 | RESIDENTS
16,255,000 planned



2,807,136 | IDPs
4,024,515 planned



1,369,434 | REFUGEES
1,098,864 planned



305,193 | RETURNEES
945,247 planned

MODALITY OF ASSISTANCE



1,296,175
beneficiaries reached through
CAPACITY STRENGTHENING



11,164,519
beneficiaries reached through
CASH



10,449,378
beneficiaries reached through
FOOD

CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

\$ 226,516,217 actual
\$ 432,316,946 planned

VALUE VOUCHER TRANSFERS

\$ 216,350,106 actual
\$ 281,724,064 planned

VALUE VOUCHER TRANSFER FOR SERVICES TRANSFERRED

\$ 2,650,597 actual
\$ 224,700 planned

COMMODITY VOUCHERS TRANSFERS

\$ 246,604 actual
\$ 4,011,218 planned

FOOD DISTRIBUTED

386,192 MT actual
781,845 MT planned

BENEFICIARIES BY PROGRAMME AREA

UNCONDITIONAL RESOURCE TRANSFER

13,014,852 reached
12,143,311 planned

SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMES

3,398,793 reached
3,635,905 planned

ASSET CREATION & LIVELIHOODS

2,374,459 reached
3,556,898 planned

TREATMENT OF MALNUTRITION

2,080,495 reached 2,327,402 planned

PREVENTION OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION

1,379,861 reached 3,011,898 planned

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION

1,069,920 reached
652,590 planned

SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURAL MARKET SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

149,113 reached
169,652 planned

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

60,000 planned



WFP CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

213,257 

Smallholder farmers supported by WFP (120% of planned)



SUPPLY CHAIN

386,326 MT OF FOOD

distributed through Cooperating Partners

UNHAS



89,706

passengers transported regionally (98% of planned)



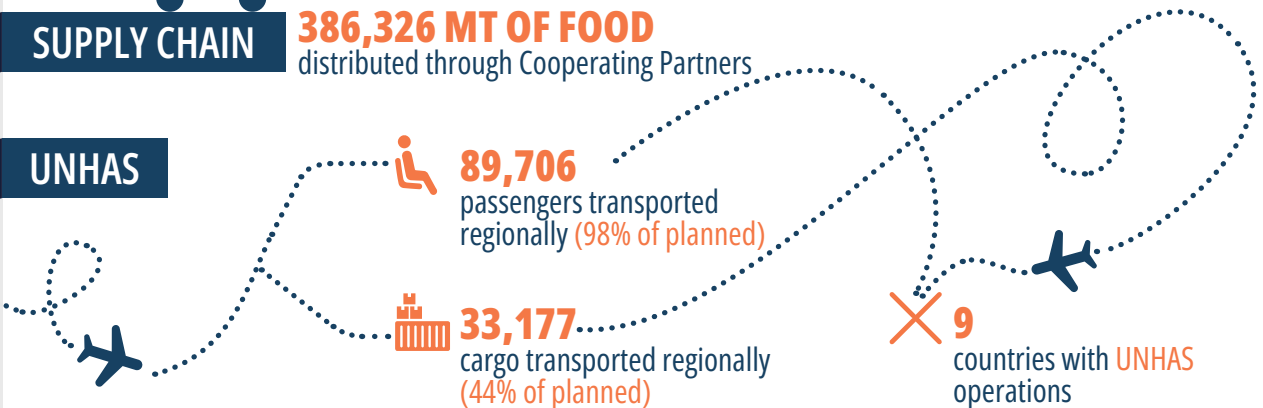
33,177

cargo transported regionally (44% of planned)



9

countries with UNHAS operations



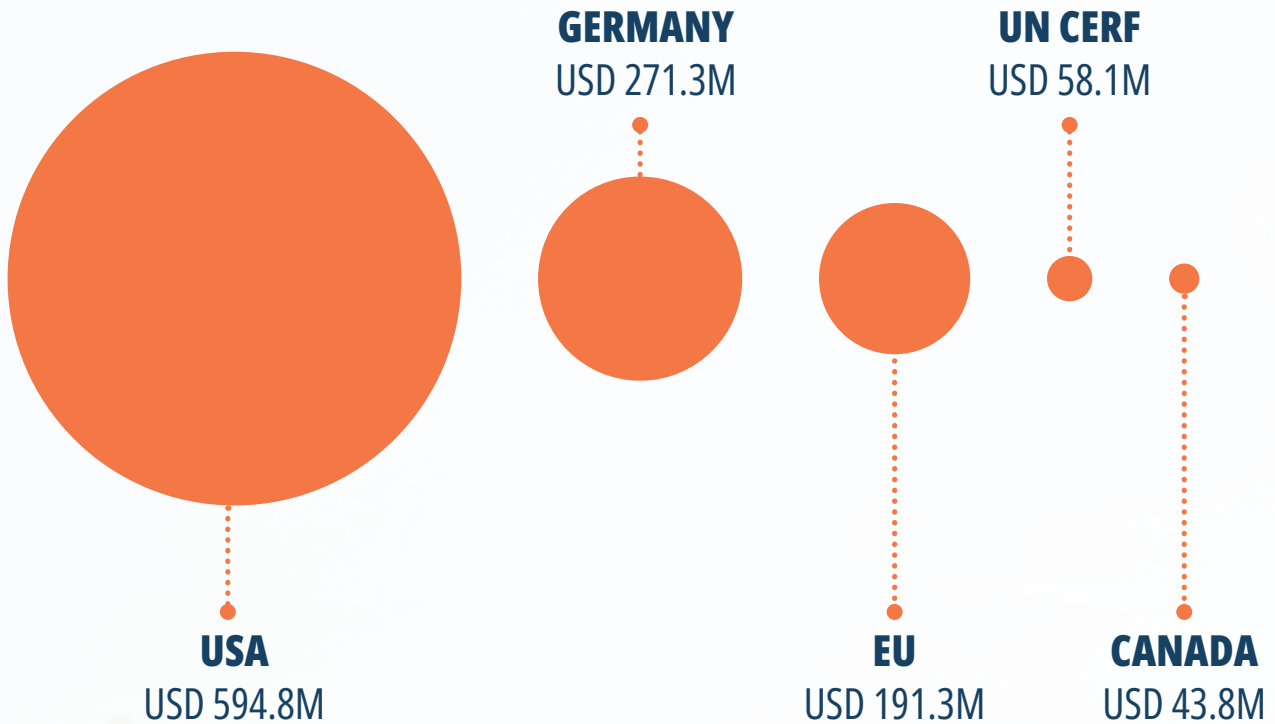


PARTNERSHIPS & RESOURCING

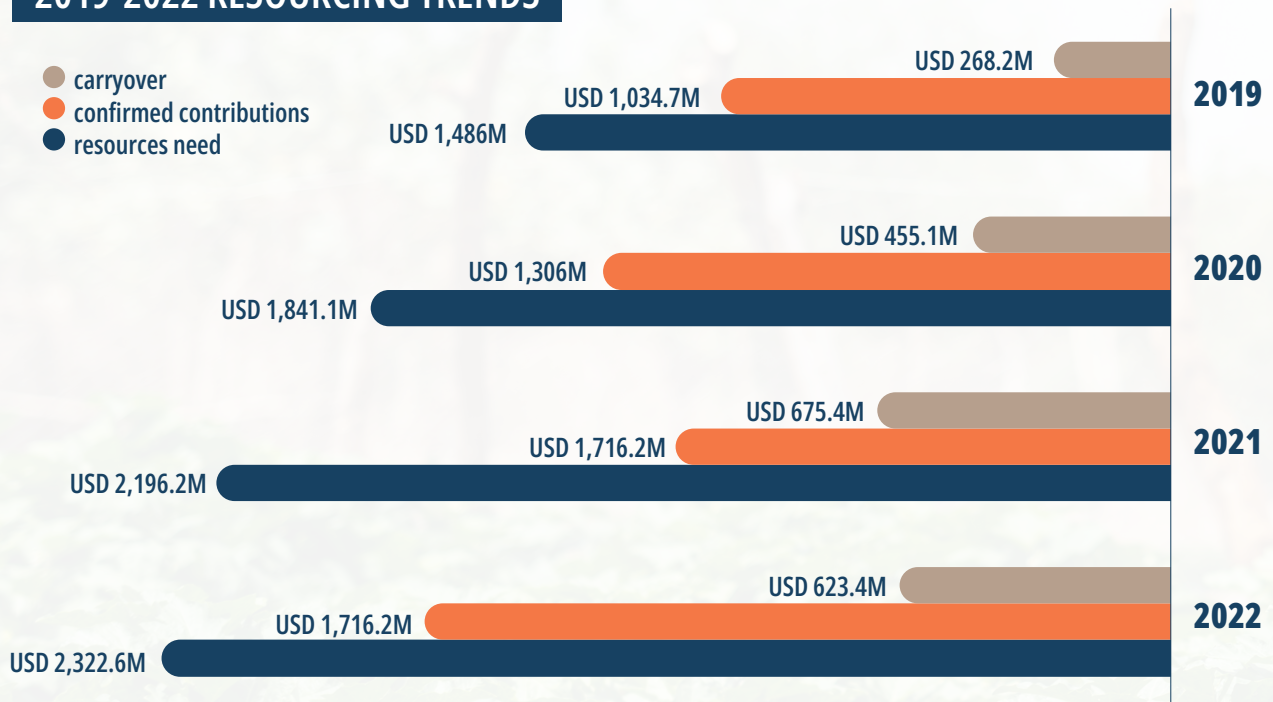


USD 1.7B
were resourced in 2022

OUR 2022 TOP DONORS



2019-2022 RESOURCING TRENDS







RESEARCH ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

Regional Food Security and Nutrition Context 2022

West Africa faced an unprecedented food and nutrition crisis, driven by a combination of factors, including the poor performance of the 2021 rainy season, a deteriorating security context, rising food prices, economic factors, underlying structural vulnerabilities, and climatic shocks, as well as the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Persistent insecurity in the tri-border area in the Central Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, and the north-western and south-western regions of Cameroon, north-western Nigeria, particularly affected livelihoods and food access. In addition, insecurity expanded to new areas, including southern Burkina Faso and the northern regions of the Gulf of Guinea countries. According to ACLED¹, nearly 11,100 violent events were recorded in the region between January and November 2022 – about the same number as throughout the previous year (11,500), causing the death of more than 29,000 people, as compared to 29,500 in 2021. In some areas, such as the Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) there was a deterioration in the security situation, with a 15 percent increase in violent events between 2021 and 2022, as well as an increase of more than 50 percent of victims. Insecurity and forced population displacements

affected livelihoods, disrupting trade flows and people's mobility – including pastoral transhumance – and access to basic services due to the closure and dysfunctions of health structures, schools, and markets. Insecurity also led to a decline in humanitarian access in areas affected by conflict.

Beyond insecurity, climatic and economic shocks also affected household food security, including significant declines in production. The deficits in fodder and agricultural production in the north of the Sahelian strip led to early movements of herds, prolonged the pastoral lean season, and resulted in the precocity of the agricultural lean season.

The macroeconomic situation remained worrisome across the region, with a general spike in staple food prices, and high inflation rates in some countries, including Sierra Leone (29 percent), Ghana (40 percent) and Nigeria (21 percent).

The regional and international context continued to affect the economic situation, including through the political and economic sanctions imposed on specific countries, as well as the impact of the Ukraine crisis, which led to higher prices on international markets, particularly the prices and availability of agro food products, fertilisers, fuel, and humanitarian assistance. Finally, extreme

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project

poverty increased as West Africa had not finished recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Regional Market Situation**

In 2022, markets in the region experienced severe disruptions, due to several factors. The level of market supply was relatively low due to the poor performance of the 2021-2022 agricultural campaign, the quality of infrastructure, insecurity and export bans on local cereals taken by some countries, namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Mali. This situation led to atypical variations in the prices of basic foodstuffs never recorded in the region, reaching +50 percent. The cost of the food basket increased while households' incomes remained steady. In the lean season, more than 50 percent of the markets assessed in Cameroon, Guinea, Liberia, and Mali were poorly functional, 59 percent, 65 percent, 68 percent and 64 percent respectively.

With the Ukraine crisis, a general drop in the international supply of wheat flour, vegetable oil and sugar was observed. Hydrocarbon prices rose sharply before experiencing a relative decline at the end of the year. The combined impact of rising crude oil and freight drove up transportation costs in the region. The increase in the cost of transport was reflected in the price of food since the cost of transport represents on average 15 to 20 percent of the total cost of food in the region. For example, in Cape Verde, the cost of transport increased by 60 percent.

This situation led to record inflationary situations, which impacted the region's economies. Most countries recorded double-digit inflation rates with Ghana leading the list with a rate of 54.10 percent in December 2022. Moreover, the depreciation of currencies against the US dollar had a substantial impact on import bills for a region where countries are highly dependent on imports. In December 2022, Ghana and Sierra Leone saw their currencies depreciate by +50 percent and +39 percent, respectively compared to the same period in 2021.

- **Nutrition situation**

Despite the efforts made in 2022 by WFP and its partners, the nutritional situation remained particularly worrying in the Sahel countries and Nigeria. An upward trend in the prevalence of acute malnutrition was observed among children under five years old, with rates above the emergency threshold (15 percent), particularly in some areas in Senegal (28 percent in Louga, 23 percent in Matam), in Mauritania (19.1 percent in Gorgol, 19.7 percent in Guidimaka), in North-East Nigeria (18.1 percent in Yobe, 17.2 percent in North Borno), in Niger (16.1 percent in Dogon Douthi). Also, several areas recorded prevalence above the alert threshold of 10 percent, particularly in the areas of the three borders (Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger) and in the Lake Chad basin (Niger, Nigeria, and Chad). The difficulties of access to basic social services (health, education, water-hygiene-sanitation), greatly aggravated by insecurity and violence continued to weigh on the nutritional situation of vulnerable children and women.

WFP Food security analysis informing programming and targeting

WFP's food security analysis was key for targeting and prioritisation decisions, especially for the lean season response. At a geographic level, the Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis (for which WFP is the main data provider) helped identify the number of people needing assistance and administrative areas classified in CH phase 3 or above. WFP played a key role at the regional level through its active participation in the CH regional technical committee. The information provided through the CH analysis helped countries in the design of a national response plan in which the humanitarian partners, including WFP, prioritised their intervention areas and the kind of assistance to be provided.

At the sub administrative level, available secondary information, satellite imagery analysis (Cropland Change Analysis) in some countries (Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, among others) and consultations with local authorities helped

with the identification of the most vulnerable communities and villages to be part of the assistance. Depending on the approach, profiling exercises took place using the Household Analysis Approach (HEA) or Food Security Surveys datasets to establish targeting household's eligibility criteria in consultation with the communities and other stakeholders.

In the refugee context, WFP worked closely with UNHCR through the Targeting Hub to conduct JAM² surveys which were useful for targeting and prioritisation in these settings (e.g. Cameroon, Niger, Mauritania). The Essential Needs Assessments (ENA)³ including the MEB⁴ analysis also helped setting transfer values for cash-based transfers (CBT) modalities in various countries. Areas for resilience activities implantation were in general targeted using the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA)⁵ which combines historical food security data and various climate-related information.

Monitoring of Country Strategic Plans

WFP enhanced monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning, in 2022, while supporting Country Offices (COs) in adopting a gender-responsive approach for gender analyses, including data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability.

The improvement in Monitoring Planning was a key priority of the RAM strategy in 2022. For this purpose, the rollout of the RAM Planning and Budgeting Tool (EPB) was finalised. This tool enabled better evidence-generation activities planning, throughout CSPs. The tool will also help advocating, vis-à-vis donors, for increased funding levels in evidence generation activities, as well as enabling identifying areas for attention and required adjustments.

The support to monitoring activities at outcome and output levels was guided by the Corporate

Results Framework (CRF) 2017-2021, using WFP corporate monitoring system COMET, and WFP's contribution towards achieving SDGs (SDGs 2 and 17, as well as other SDGs) was checked. A beneficiary estimation exercise was conducted quarterly using the MoDA platform and enabled to respond timely to data requests. Learning opportunities were reinforced through process monitoring, which leveraged WFP's harmonised monitoring toolkit, including corporate guidance. In this regard, the RBD RAM Unit pursued the analysis of the Capacity Gap Assessment findings, aiming at leverage on good practices and better plans to support COs more efficiently, within the limits of available resources.

To support evidence generation around the flagship Integrated Resilience Programme in the Sahel, the RBD RAM Unit also developed a new regional Resilience Monitoring & Measurement (RMM) framework that is aligned with the latest corporate guidance and builds on the experience and good practices of resilience-specific monitoring since 2018. For instance, the cropland changes analysis approach developed by WFP in Mali in 2018 was scaled up in hard-to-reach areas of seven countries in West Africa. The analyses, which rely on the processing of high-resolution satellite imagery were conducted in collaboration with national and international partners to inform food security analyses (such as the CH) as well as emergency preparedness processes (including targeting and operational planning).

Two CH sessions were carried out in March and November 2022. This allowed to conduct relevant consensual, rigorous, and transparent analysis of the current and projected food and nutritional situation in the region. As a result, it was possible to classify the severity of food and nutritional insecurity according to the international classification scale and inform programming.

2 Joint Assessment Monitoring (<https://newgo.wfp.org/documents/joint-assessment-missions-jam-a-practical-guide>)

3 Essential Needs Guidelines | World Food Programme ([wfp.org](https://www.wfp.org/publications/essential-needs-guidelines))

4 Minimum Expenditure Basket (<https://newgo.wfp.org/news/what-do-you-need-and-how-much-would-it-cost-to-live-a-dignified-life>)

5 Integrated Context Analysis ([wfp.org](https://www.wfp.org/publications/integrated-context-analysis))



Innovation in Monitoring

Innovation is critical to enable WFP to deliver on its mandate to reach Zero Hunger. In doing so, RBD RAM kept embracing new technologies and innovative approaches to provide credible, relevant, and timely evidence for strategic and operational decision-making, resource mobilisation and accountability to beneficiaries.

RBD rolled out a geospatial analysis workstream that aims at integrating innovative, satellite-based approaches in RAM activities across West Africa. In collaboration with COs, RBD piloted an innovative geotargeting approach, which integrates satellite-based approaches into targeting processes, allowing for more disaggregated and granular analyses. Use cases include Chad, where the approach was used in 2022 to inform seasonal emergency response programmes in highly food insecure areas, as well as The Gambia, where the approach was used to inform the targeting of a multi-year resilience project.

WFP also strengthened collaboration with academia, notably universities, and research centres, as part of the broader institutional systems-strengthening efforts in areas of food security and nutrition. On this regard, RAM

liaised with the University of Tulane to carry out a study aiming at strengthening evidence-generation and outcome analysis in West Africa. Likewise, a cooperation framework in the domain of research and capacity strengthening related to food security, nutrition, resilience, and other related topics, was set between WFP and J-PAL⁶, under the leadership of RBD RAM. Lastly, a study was conducted as part of a research partnership established between WFP and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)⁷ under the regional memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in January 2021. The study aimed to increase conflict-sensitivity and contribute to social cohesion within WFP's integrated resilience programs in Niger and Burkina Faso.

In West Africa, WFP, UNICEF and partners conducted a joint prioritisation exercise using the last six CH and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis rounds, named Food Security and Nutrition Hotspot Analysis. This approach is a classification of areas most vulnerable and at risk of food and nutrition insecurity, which relies on different prioritisation factors, and is based on existing food security and nutrition analysis exercises as well as an analysis of aggravating and risk factors. The analysis aims

⁶ <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/> (The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) is a global research center working to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence)

⁷ <https://www.ifpri.org/>

to ensure better targeting in the humanitarian context, enhance coordination of interventions and supply planning, as well as provide evidence to stakeholders.

In August 2022, WFP conducted a Multi-Dimensional Risk Analysis, aiming to analyse the key drivers of vulnerability in West Africa and establish a multi-dimensional risk index. The study consisted of a collection of multi-hazard and risk analyses, to guide WFP's emergency and longer-term response, and inform the formulation of strategy, advocacy and communication to help define buffer zones and geographical targeting for nexus approaches.

WFP continued to reinforce the collaboration with other UN agencies at regional level. As a result, together with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), WFP released a policy brief on food insecurity and policy responses in West Africa, reviewing the measures governments had taken to respond to the current food security crisis, and the need to promote policies that address structural challenges to ensure long-term food security.

In the same vein of strengthening the strategic partnership with regional and international organisations, WFP collaborated with the ECOWAS Commission for Agriculture and Economic Affairs to design a joint action plan in support of the strengthening of the ECOWAP monitoring system and partnership for enhanced food security in West Africa.

RBD RAM team contributed to strengthening collaborations at the regional level with institutions and organisations such as ECOWAS, FAO and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) through a joint study on the [risk and impact of the Ukraine crisis on food security in the ECOWAS region](#). These results were used to make recommendations in high summits to influence national and regional policies to reduce the dependence of countries in the region on the importation of agricultural inputs in the medium and long terms by promoting local development.

WFP is at the centre of the production of evidence

linked to food security data which contributes to the CH process. Data quality is very important because it is a determining factor in the decision-making process. The RBD RAM unit made available [an application](#) that allows almost real-time quality control of survey data to mitigate the risk of error and be efficient in terms of time and resource management. It improved the quality of CH analysis and at the same time facilitated beneficiaries' targeting.

Challenges in Monitoring

Several issues hampered monitoring activities in 2022. In many countries in the region, particularly in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Cameroon, the deteriorating security situation limited access to only a few intervention areas. Fortunately, the use of Third-Party Monitoring (TPM), outsourced monitoring, and mVAM enabled to maintain the monitoring coverage.

On the other hand, the limited staffing for RAM, and the limited capacity of government counterparts hampered the effective implementation of a Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System, which made it challenging to participate in the regional CH analysis for certain countries.

The above list could be extended to include funding challenges for monitoring, limited capacity in COMET, large number of evaluations/assessments, lack of coordination for joint monitoring with the government counterparts.

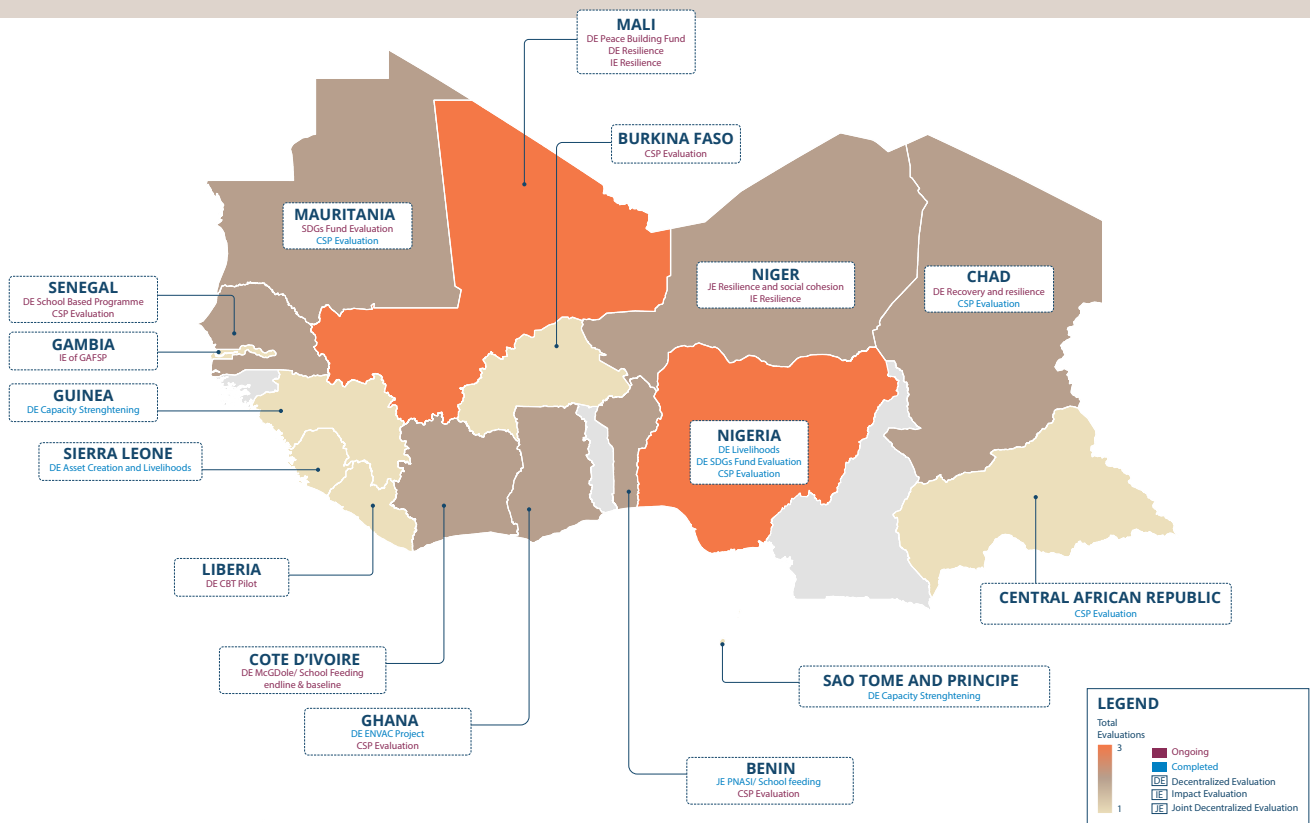


EVALUATION



An evaluation is an assessment, conducted as systematically and impartially as possible, of an activity, project, programme, strategy, policy, topic, theme, sector, operational area or institutional performance. It analyses the level of achievement of both expected and unexpected results by examining the results chain, processes, contextual factors and causality using appropriate criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

An evaluation should provide credible, useful, evidence-based information that enables the timely incorporation of its findings, recommendations and lessons into the decision-making processes of organisations and stakeholders. It serves the dual purpose of accountability and learning.

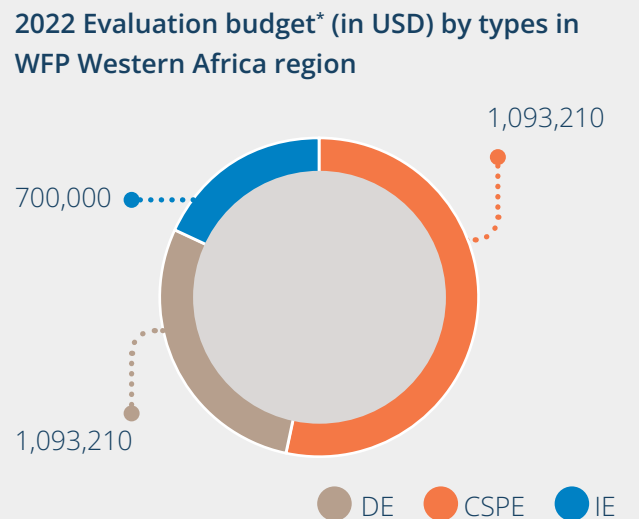


Overview

In 2022 the Regional Evaluation Unit provided support to manage 27 evaluation processes in West Africa across 16 out of the 20 countries where WFP operates. This included 16 decentralised evaluations (DE) under WFP DE Quality Assurance Framework (DEQAS), 8 CSP Evaluations and 3 Impact Evaluations (IE). Among these, several were conducted jointly: PNASI School Meals evaluation in Benin with the Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education and Resilience and Social Cohesion evaluation in Niger with UNICEF, further, two country-led evaluations took place in Mauritania and Nigeria on the Joint SDG Fund.

Regarding the IE, the Regional Evaluation Unit provided advice on the successful set-up of future IE and was an active member of the internal Resilience Evidence Generation working group that strives to enhance overall resilience evidence generation, coordinate the work, and harmonise results generation, presentation, and communication.

The total investment on evaluations in West Africa in 2022 amounted to USD 3,822,820, including funding from partners for joint and country-led evaluations and support from WFP Contingency Evaluation Fund.



* Budget of 19 evaluations out of 26, remaining 7 are in preparation stage.

In 2022 the new Regional Evaluation Strategy (2023 – 2030) was elaborated through extensive rounds of consultation at global, regional, and country office levels. It will be approved in 2023.

It is based on 5 Outcomes:



Evidence Generation and Use



Perspective on evaluation from the field

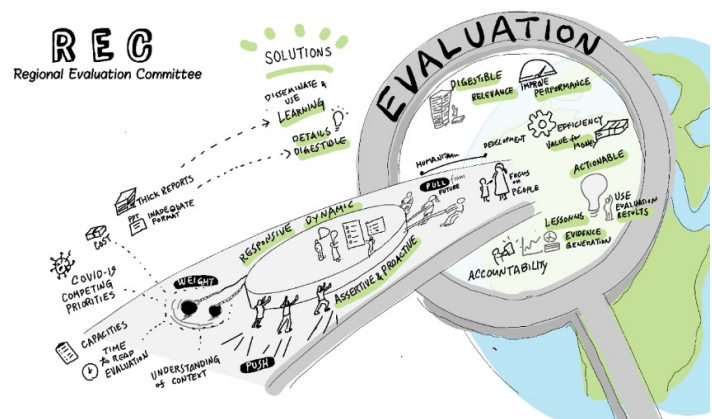
WFP created an ambitious platform in the Sahel to support resilience. A key part of this agenda is to document the impact of WFP interventions on absorptive, adaptive, and transformative resilience capacities. For example, in Mali, information gathered from the impact evaluation contributed to the establishment of a unified social registry (RSU) which also served as a targeting strategy for the project. Overall, these learnings will be used to inform future programming.

Since the establishment of the DE function in 2016, West Africa has been very proactive in producing credible, independent, and useful evidence on a wide range of topics, with a total of 26 DEs commissioned. In 2022, resilience, livelihoods, school-based programmes, and capacity strengthening were the sectors prioritised by the COs based on their learning needs.

Together with the regional team, the Evaluation and RAM Units coordinated the Regional Evidence Generation Agenda, a key theme for 2022 which was extensively discussed during a one-week workshop gathering all COs in West Africa, the Country Directors meetings, and the Regional Evaluation Committee (REC) Meeting. This helped shape the evidence priorities at the country level and identify topics of regional relevance that could become part of a regional or multi-country evaluation.

The REC, a body composed of members from COs and key functional units from the region, champions the rollout of the Evaluation Policy and Strategy in the region. After more than two

years of service, the composition of the REC was renewed, and the terms of reference were reviewed and clarified to allow the new REC to bring forward the discussions on the strategic approach to evaluations.



Supporting the use of evidence is at the core of the work of the Regional Evaluation Unit. In 2022 the formulation of five 2nd Generation CSPs was supported, including three country missions, and evaluative evidence was used to inform the new strategic approach.



National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD)

WFP's commitment to NECD in West Africa in 2022 translated into meetings and briefings with local evaluation organisations, namely SenEval and CLEAR. WFP also facilitated the participation of a representative from the Benin Ministry of Preschool and Primary Education at the 2022 National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conference in Italy to reflect on progress made in national evaluation capacity development. Specifically, he shared the Benin experience from the recently concluded joint evaluation of the Integrated National School meals Programme in Benin in a panel on Supporting the development of National Evaluation Systems.

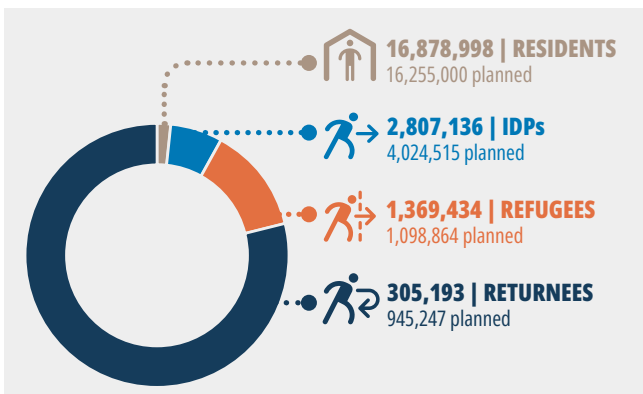
NECD is considered across evaluation processes by ensuring that national and local actors are represented in the Evaluation Reference Group, a governance body established to advise and guide evaluation teams, provide feedback on the evaluation deliverables, and enhance mutual learning.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Crisis response – Reaching more people

In 2022, West Africa emergency operations context was characterised by a record level of food insecure people exacerbated by the increased trends of violence, leading to new displacements, and significant limitations of humanitarian access, as well as an economic environment still affected by the impact of COVID-19 and amplified by the Ukraine crisis. Consequently, approximately 45 million people needed humanitarian assistance, including some 7,6 million IDPs and around 1,7 million refugees.



In response, WFP scaled up its life-saving operations to assist those in critical need, reaching over 13 million persons. This included emergency food assistance, emergency school meals, treatment and prevention of malnutrition to IDPs and host families, refugees, and lean season-affected people. Out of this achievement,

more than 63 percent (7,8 million) were in the G5 Sahel countries only, reached notably during the lean season scale up. Overall, over 62 percent of the total 21.4 million people reached in the region were assisted through crisis response. This marked an over 12 percent increase compared to 2021 where WFP provided critical life-saving assistance to some 11.63 million people in need.

All WFP interventions were planned and implemented in coordination with the governments and partners, while maintaining its leadership in Food Security, Logistics, Cash and Emergency Telecommunication. Moreover, WFP amped up its support for access working groups in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin through resource mobilisation for COs and active participation in regional coordination platforms on access, resulting in strongly maintained dialogue.

The Emergency response was also marked in 2022 by several unplanned interventions such as the Cape Verde response, covered through a Limited Emergency Operation (LEO), the Global Food Crisis, as well as floods in Sao Tome and Principe, The Gambia, Chad, Sierra Leone. This put more pressure on WFP's already limited resources for crisis response, forcing a strict prioritisation of the assistance, including strong geographical targeting, reduction of rations and / or suspension of some activities.

Lean Season Response

During the 2022 lean season response, WFP planned to assist up to 7.1 million people (peak month in August) in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger out of the 12.7 million people who were projected to be food insecure (CH 3-5) between June and August 2022. WFP reached a total of 7.4 million most vulnerable people (104 percent of the target) through the Sahel Shock Response (SSR) that started in March across the G5 Sahel countries to assist the most food insecure populations. Available resources were prioritised to the most vulnerable areas and, within these, to the most vulnerable households, as the SSR was only funded at 66 percent, which led WFP to apply reduced rations in some areas based on its prioritisation strategy. In addition, access and security constraints affected the operations, particularly in conflict-affected areas, where specific security arrangements and coordination were required.

WFP's Lean season response modality had an average split of 64 percent CBT and 36 percent in-kind assistance, including specialised nutritious food (SNF) to the most vulnerable children under five years old and pregnant and breastfeeding women. WFP closely monitored the market situation and food prices in all key markets in the Sahel to inform transfer values and the selection of the most appropriate assistance modality and delivery mechanisms; this provided strong evidence for the transfer modalities selection.

Access and Civil-Military Coordination

RBD continues to deploy varied strategies to deliver life-saving and life-changing interventions to people living in hard-to-reach areas. These strategies include:

Strengthening RB and COs access capacities by doubling its staff dedicated to emergency response operations and access resources from 7 in 2022 to 16 in 2023. This permitted to i) intensify the level of dialogue and interaction with the parties to the conflicts and maintain WFP operations in areas where the presence of

States is weak or in areas where communities live under the control or strong influence of non-state armed groups (e.g. Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, CAR); iii) train WFP staff (167) and its partners on humanitarian negotiations and dialogue with the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), OCHA Human Civil-Military Coordination (OCHA CMCoord), among others.

In **Burkina Faso**, WFP is working hard to : (a) strengthen dialogue and interactions with actors in the conflict to reach several blockaded and isolated localities, (b) adapt WFP's air capacity with the deployment of a fleet of three Chinook helicopters to support the scale up plan of assistance to populations in blocked and isolated areas, (c) continue dialogue and interaction with armed non-state actors and communities in areas beyond the control of state authorities, (d) continuously adapt its access strategy in hard-to-reach areas by deploying a dedicated fleet of 25 trucks (painted white with WFP logo) in the four field offices, by adopting a private commercial fleet (with logo or not depending on the level of acceptance and risk).

In **Nigeria**, to extend its footprint, WFP relied on collaborations with cooperating partners (CPs) that included local-based organisations and third-party monitors. For continuity of humanitarian support in locations where WFP may be impeded to reach (usually for a limited time before it is re-opened), WFP relied on CBO's/NGO's locally recruited staff and engaged the government to negotiate access corridors. Additionally, based on the 'no regrets' approach, WFP engaged the Government in using its services to reach some of the inaccessible areas. For the transportation of in-kind commodities, WFP collaborated with the Government and relied on military escorts to deliver assistance. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) conducted a study to demonstrate whether and how WFP contributed to peace through its intervention. The conclusions and recommendations were integrated into the Nigeria CSP 2023-2028.

In **Cameroon**, to address the security and access issues in the two regions in Cameroon, and

in addition to the existing access strategy, the following additional measures were put in place to maintain access: (a) WFP put in place a joint access negotiation system with all the CPs and Transporters, (b) prepositions food commodities within communities (if the security situation is conducive). Carrying out double food distribution in anticipation of lockdowns is another strategy used as humanitarians are not granted access during lockdowns. The use of alternative roads to reach food distribution sites is another strategy used when movement on some roads used by humanitarians is restricted or when roadblocks and bans on vehicle movement orders are issued by non-state armed groups (NSAGS).

In **Niger**, to deal in particular with security challenges, the following adaptation and mitigation measures were implemented: (a) reinforcement of interaction with the defence and security forces (FDS) through notification system mechanism of operational CMCoord, (b) relocation of certain distribution sites in consultation with the administrative authorities, (c) adoption of a low profile approach with the CP for access to certain insecure areas, (d) adaptation of modalities and programmatic approach that considers the level of insecurity in the choice of assistance methods (food in insecure areas, cash in less insecure areas) and in consultation with the authorities, (d) continuation of corridors analysis and search of possible alternatives.

In **Mali**, WFP adapted its operations to a context of increased violence and insecurity. This included the activation and implementation of mechanisms to facilitate humanitarian access through humanitarian negotiation and dialogue with community leaders, defence and security forces, non-state armed groups (GANE). Moreover, in the Central and Northern



regions, WFP worked with local and international CPs to implement its emergency and resilience operations for communities affected by food and nutritional insecurity as well as the security crisis.

In **Mauritania**, ten workshops on peacebuilding were organised in 2022 on dispute prevention and management structures such as the inter municipal commission responsible for analysing transhumance and dispute arbitration (AGLCs). WFP also worked to strengthen local authorities' capacities in the establishment of better management of natural resources and promotion of peaceful cooperation.

In **Chad**, WFP empowered vulnerable youth to become peacebuilders. Awareness-raising activities on harmful effects of youth migration, as well as on the importance of keeping young people in school, were conducted.

In May 2022, Talking Drums and Studio (TDS) in WFP **Sierra Leone** and WFP **Guinea** conducted a conflict analysis to best orientate their intervention in communities in Faranah and Falaba and re-dynamise transhumance. TDS Sierra Leone set up and trained four cross-border alert teams in Falaba district to provide early warning alert on conflict threats and dynamics to the project team through a frontline short message system. In Guinea, TDS trained 26 community relays. Moreover, each organisation arranged two town-hall meetings, including a joint cross-border meeting that brought

together border-laying communities in Koindukura. Over 400 participants took part in these meetings. Women and youth were trained on how to play a role in conflict prevention and management in their communities, through workshops, community engagement and ensuring more representation and

participation in project activities.

In **The Gambia**, the climate conflict project significantly enhanced livelihood of beneficiaries and strengthened social cohesion between beneficiary communities. It also strengthened coping mechanisms against risks of climate induced conflicts and minimised gender related vulnerabilities and tensions. Dialogue brought together communities in areas prone to conflict.

In the **coastal countries**, RBD provided technical support to monitor the situation and dynamics of NSAGs and alert COs. It is with this in mind that a multi-unit exploratory mission was organised to Togo, Benin, and Ghana.

From regional perspectives, RBD continued strengthening its influence and advocacy actions in regional platforms including UN agencies, international NGOs, and donors to ensure that the real problems of access are properly addressed using a concerted and coordinated approach based on humanitarian principles.

Nexus approach in Western Africa

WFP aims at transitioning from humanitarian response to increased resilience among households, communities, and national systems to minimise the regular requirement for emergency food assistance during lean seasons, while also pursuing social cohesion and peace outcomes, depending on the specificities of the setting.

The nexus approach aims at: 1) defining the most adequate programmatic offer which has the strongest likelihood to maximise the food security and nutrition gains, based on the context, security, food security and nutrition analysis; 2) demonstrating complementarity and convergence of WFP and non-WFP packages and interventions, enabling transitions, and mitigating future shocks in some geographic areas, also ensuring cost-efficiencies in the medium to longer term.

Central Sahel is indeed where WFP's nexus approach is the most advanced so far. WFP

enables and accelerates the transition between short term and longer-term humanitarian response, and support to local governance in many regions of Sahel, notably in Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali. In the Sahel, WFP believes that the greatest potential for the nexus approach and prevention of further unravelling lies in the already fragile 'buffer zones'. In settings at risk of slipping into humanitarian crisis and violence, efforts towards coherence and complementarity between humanitarian – development – peace (HDP) actors can and must be accelerated. The contribution, and potential leadership role, of WFP itself is also likely to be greater in such settings. WFP also supports governments build effective and inclusive social protection systems, as a key strategy to ensure sustained support for the most vulnerable populations. There are key challenges ahead related to the extremely low coverage of existing social protection programmes and limited fiscal space allocations. Including specific groups such as refugees and IDPs will also require a specific approach to ensure their vulnerabilities are accounted for and advocacy made to include these groups into social registries and existing programmes.

WFP in Niger and Burkina Faso contributed to efforts to strengthen social cohesion between displaced populations (IDPs, refugees, returnees) and host communities through multidimensional assistance. In the spirit of the Triple Nexus. WFP provided emergency food and nutritional assistance in the northern areas of these countries (PHASE 1), and started implementing resilience actions and inclusive decision-making structures, Food Assistance actions for the creation of community assets, income-generating activities and strengthening of livelihoods linked to agro-pastoral activities integrated and focused on the triple-nexus (PHASE 2).



RBD CASH RESPONSE

The Ukraine crisis further compounded a worrying food security situation in West Africa which had been weakened by the four Cs of climate crisis, conflict, COVID, and the rising cost of food and fuel. The Ukraine crisis led to supply chain disruptions and a rapid increase in food costs reaching a ten-year high. Furthermore, the crisis resulted in a major deficit of agricultural inputs, particularly fertilisers. These factors all led hunger to quadruple in West Africa in 2022 compared to 2019.

In response, WFP aimed to provide food and nutrition assistance to prevent increased mortality and prioritised using cash-based transfers wherever feasible. In line with the Regional Cash Strategy, WFP prioritised the use of CBT in West Africa, and specifically unrestricted cash, for three main reasons: it is what the people WFP serves want, unrestricted cash helps meet essential needs, and cash helps revitalise local markets.

RBD provided dedicated technical and strategic support to country operations to support the cash scale-up and response to the global food crisis. The Regional Cash Strategy and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on CBT and in-Kind digitisation served as key guides for country operations on how to scale their cash operations. The cross-functional team at the regional level came together at both the Strategic and Technical Cash Working Group levels to develop a detailed support plan to ensure that the region was able



11,164,519

beneficiaries reached through **CASH**

CASH-BASED TRANSFERS
\$ 226,516,217 actual

VALUE VOUCHER TRANSFERS
\$ 216,350,106 actual

VALUE VOUCHER TRANSFER FOR SERVICES TRANSFERRED
\$ 2,650,597 actual

COMMODITY VOUCHERS TRANSFERS
\$ 246,604 actual

to deliver on the cash scale-up. This support plan included extended support missions, a renewed focus on contracting financial service providers (FSP), support on Country Office staffing, capacity-strengthening, and remote/operational support.

CBT Programme prioritised the deployment of extended support missions to Mali, Chad, and Mauritania to provide direct support for the Global Food Crisis scale-up and to help ensure that key assurance measures for the scale-up were in place. RBD additionally reinforced countries' capacity related to contracting FSP, as it was recognised that having valid FSP contracts that covered all required mechanisms and geographic zones was a large need to scale up the use of cash. RBD leveraged the Global Food Crisis waiver to extend several contracts on an exceptional basis and to fast-track several new

FSP contracts to provide greater reach and flexibility.

As part of the cash scale-up for the Global Food Crisis, West Africa received the highest volume of cash ever (over USD 426 million, a 53 percent increase from 2021), representing 43 percent of WFP's overall assistance in the region. The region provided cash transfers to over 8.3 million people, translating into 44 percent more people reached. Over 55 percent of the cash assistance was unrestricted. When looking specifically at the lean season (June -September), over USD 190 million was transferred, which is a 95 percent increase from 2021.

The ability of WFP to increase its cash assistance by 95 percent during the lean season period shows that the region was able to rapidly scale its cash response, ensuring that assistance reached people when they needed it most. The cash scale-up further proved that cash should be the preferred modality for rapid scale-ups due to the relatively low set-up time specifically for operations already running cash programming.

While WFP was able to rapidly scale cash across the region, several key challenges were faced which provided key lessons learned that will help inform how the region approaches cash transfers in 2023 and beyond. In early 2022, the Regional Francophone CBT Roster was finalised, which was instrumental in helping to fill key positions within the region.

One of the key drivers of the Global Food Crisis was a rise in inflation, specifically for key food products. Within the region, food inflation rose to 60 percent in Ghana, 47 percent in Sierra Leone, and 24 percent in Nigeria¹. The rise in inflation of key food commodities reduced the purchasing power of the transfer value WFP provides to the people it serves. Recognising that in times of inflation cash is still a vital intervention that can help to stabilise economies, WFP endeavoured to increase transfer values where possible and to bundle two months' worth of assistance to increase the purchasing power of the people it serves. Working within high inflationary

environments and contexts with depreciating currencies revealed the importance of ensuring that the CBT operations know the macroeconomic situation and that RBD provides dedicated strategic guidance to country operations related to operating within economically volatile contexts.

One of the other key challenges faced within the global scale-up was ensuring the use of the most appropriate transfer mechanism that aligned beneficiaries' preferences and the conditions of the local context. As WFP utilised the mechanisms and service providers that had been previously used in intervention locations, in the case of urban responses, this determined providing direct cash instead of mobile money payments. Going forward, WFP will work on increasing the agility of its processes to quickly update transfer modality and mechanism selection prioritizing the preferences and existing financial accounts of the people WFP serves.

The scale-up of WFP's cash programmes dramatically increased the amount of liquidity required for FSP. In certain rural or hard to reach areas, this became challenging. Furthermore, within the region WFP oftentimes partners with small micro-finance institutions or rural banks who are not used to the large volumes WFP transfers, thus putting stress on their internal capacities. To address this situation, WFP launched a new regional contracting process for long-term agreements for FSPs that work across the region. These LTAs will help ensure WFP has the coverage that it requires with reputable financial institutions.

Over the last two years the region was focused on improving the assurance measures within the region, ensuring the right people receive the right amount. While countries are at different assurance levels, WFP will continue with its digitisation efforts, most notably for direct cash distributions. This includes ensuring that WFP can leverage any smart phone/tablet for its mobile apps, conduct local printing of plastic cards to reduce wait times for imported cards, and leverage the data and solutions that other partners/governments already have in place.

¹ https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/macro-economics/inflation

The cash-scale up for the Global Food Crisis underscored the capacity of WFP's operations to swiftly provide cash at scale and provided key lessons on how to better support WFP's operations throughout the region to provide the most appropriate assistance. Taking these lessons into 2023, RBD aims to put enhanced emphasis on transfer value calculations and essential needs, reinforcing the pre-lean season planning to ensure timely distributions of cash, and increasing the percentage of unrestricted cash to over 60 percent.

- **Case Study- Burkina Faso**

In 2022, Burkina Faso increased their cash programming by 72 percent distributing more than USD 73 million. The operation dramatically scaled its use of cash transfers to reach over 1.2 million beneficiaries. The large-scale increase of cash assistance was driven due to the expanding needs driven by a rise in insecurity and the impacts of the Global Food Crisis. To respond to the high needs within the country, the WFP country operation worked closely with the Burkinabe government's crisis response management entity – CONASUR. With funding from the World Bank, WFP helped to expand the coverage of CONASUR's emergency cash assistance programme by reaching 491,000 additional beneficiaries during the lean season. Working jointly with CONASUR, WFP was able to not only reach new households but was able to increase the capacities of both WFP and CONASUR. This project saw WFP working closely with the government-led emergency cash response to help expand coverage while also helping to align on targeting and transfer values. In addition, WFP played a convening role and provided technical expertise to CONASUR in exploring with the relevant regular social protection entities² to strengthen the linkages between the response provided through CONASUR and regular social protection, as part of the enhancement of the shock-responsiveness of the social protection system.

In July 2022 at the height of the lean season inflation reached over 30 percent³. To ensure that the purchasing power of the people WFP serves was not further diminished, the CO advocated with donors to enable them to increase the transfer value to cover 100 percent of the gap, thus increasing the purchasing power of the transfer value at the time when people needed it the most.

To scale-up their cash assistance, the operation invested in additional staffing at the CO level. In 2022 the CO hired an additional five staff in key positions, and over the course of 2023 intends to further invest in CBT staffing at the field office level. In addition to hiring additional staff, the CO also made important investments in digitisation through automating data cleaning processes, developing advanced data visualisations showing registration, and deploying new applications such as the Payment Instrument Tracking application. The CO also increased the use of electronic payment solutions with 60 percent of the CBT done throughout mobile money or other digital payment platform. Throughout the scale-up the CO also launched several cash-specific post-distribution monitoring surveys that provided key learnings for the CO on how to better adopt their cash programming and accountability to affected populations, but also now serve as the key example for the region.

2 Specifically the SP-CNPS as coordinating body and Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action who are in charge of implementation of regular social protection, mainly through the Project Filet Sociaux

3 https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/macro-economics/inflation



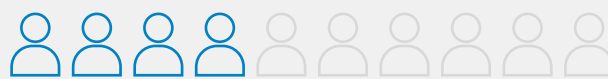
NUTRITION

Context, resources, and results

Recurrent food and nutrition crises are affecting more and more people in West Africa and the Sahel. In 2022, the report ranking the world's hungriest countries listed five countries¹ in the region in the top ten, and the analysis of global acute malnutrition trends showed an increase of 27 percent and 46 percent in global acute malnutrition cases compared to the 2015-2022 average in the West Africa & Sahel and Sahel G5 zones, respectively, i.e. about 6.3 million acutely malnourished children aged 6-59 months in the Sahel. This particularly worrying nutritional situation worsens during the lean season.

Many factors contributed to this, including political instability (military coup in Burkina Faso), ongoing insecurity in the central Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, and flooding (Chad, Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Togo). All of this impeded the access of millions of people to basic social services, reduced the capacity to ensure optimal nutritional practices, caused massive displacements and created an environment that directly limits their access to nutritious and healthy food, the average cost of which remained high in relation to the purchasing power weakened by the reduction in livelihoods.

As the situation worsened during the year due to the above factors, the need for assistance



2,080,495 beneficiaries reach through treatment of malnutrition



1,379,861 beneficiaries reach through prevention of acute malnutrition



1,060,258 beneficiaries reach through Social Behavior Change Communication

increased, and WFP undertook fundraising efforts that resulted in additional funding from USAID/BHA to increase coverage in eight countries². However, the shortfall persisted, and WFP could only cover 44 percent of the planned supplementary nutritious foods, representing 73,832 mt.

Despite these limited resources, WFP was also able to provide nutritional support for the treatment of malnutrition to 1.2 million beneficiaries (including children aged 6-23 months and pregnant or breastfeeding women) in 13 countries and for the prevention of malnutrition to 2 million beneficiaries (including children aged 6-23 months and pregnant or breastfeeding women) in 14 countries.

¹ Sierra Leone 10th Liberia 8th, Niger 7th, Chad 5th, CAR 2nd
² Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Chad, CAR, Nigeria, Cameroon

Operations and concepts

The results of the prioritisation exercise, which was carried out using the hotspot analysis methodology to better geographically target programmes and achieve greater impact, were validated by consensus with partners in the various countries concerned. However, some major challenges had to be overcome, such as obtaining data for the analyses in hard-to-reach areas, the slow pace of survey validation, difficulties in accessing funding, and/or the untimely availability of funding. For example, out of 20 countries in the region, only 8 benefited from this prioritisation exercise in 2021-2022. In addition, there were also real programmatic difficulties due to the inability to update (in the case of coastal countries) or obtain data.

The package of activities, developed in each context and preferably implemented through national systems, was based as much as possible on clear evidence. It was implemented or scaled up in a coordinated manner in line with the various commitments made by WFP, particularly in the context of the operationalisation of the Global Plan on Child Wasting (implemented in five countries³ in the Region) and the WFP-UNICEF partnership (in three pilot countries). This joint and integrated strategic approach resulted in improved coverage and continuity of care, increased exclusive breastfeeding and minimum dietary diversification practices in some areas, and a coordinated approach to identifying and selecting CPs.

The WFP-UNICEF partnership, however, had some unique features. In Burkina Faso, the collaboration was challenging, particularly in understanding the implementation of the simplified approach to malnutrition management, while in the Central African Republic (CAR), the two agencies conducted a pilot study to collect data to demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. Results are expected in 2023. Overall, the activities' performance indicators were good and exceeded the Sphere standards.

Transfer modalities and challenges

One of the main challenges to the effectiveness of the live-transfer modality is the timely supply and distribution of specialised nutritional commodities, which is a major concern in the context of its use. The Regional Office supported countries in addressing this challenge through training, monthly pipeline analyses in the different corridors, and sharing results to anticipate disruption risks. In three countries (Burkina, Chad, and Niger), support was also provided for the "last mile" analysis. CAR will start its own in 2023, and Chad plans to move to the second phase to see if a better distribution model can be found, given the bottlenecks identified. There is a growing trend to use cash to prevent acute malnutrition. The region's malnutrition prevention portfolio increased from USD 4.7 million (1.69 percent) to USD 9.8 million (2.35 percent) between 2021 and 2022.

Value chain and affordability of nutritious food

The Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis was conducted in eight countries between 2019 and 2021 and continued in Benin in 2022. The analysis found that, on average, one in two households cannot afford a nutritious diet. Pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children are most affected due to their specific nutritional needs. This rate varies with the seasons. It is even higher in remote or conflict-affected areas, particularly in the central Sahel.

In this context, WFP continued to improve access to safe and nutritious food by supporting production and demand. For staple foods such as rice, WFP supported the governments of Cameroon, Gambia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria in rice fortification. Some governments validated a rice fortification strategy and are moving towards using rice in school meals programmes. WFP continued to support the local production of complementary foods to meet the specific needs of pregnant and

3 Chad, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso

breastfeeding women, adolescents, and young children in a sustainable manner. This is the case in Chad, where WFP worked with FAO under the Programme for Strengthening Food Systems Resilience (P2RSA)⁴. In the Central Sahel countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso), WFP went beyond this with an innovative approach by facilitating access to food vouchers for pregnant and breastfeeding women, adolescent girls, and children aged 6-23 months to improve their nutritional status through the CRIALCES project (Response to the CRlse Alimentaire au Centre du Sahel).

⁴ P2RSA builds on the achievements of the Fortified Supplementary Food projects (PRO-FORT and AFORT) to strengthen local production and reduce malnutrition among young children in provinces with high chronic and acute global malnutrition prevalence.

Outcomes from the overall WFP support to improve the food environment by 2022 included:

Regulatory influence and market intelligence:

- 8 national standards developed**
- 2 national quality control laboratories supported**
- 11 processing units certified or in the process of certification**

Increased production capacity:

- 41,665 farmers trained and equipped**
- 4 biofortified crop varieties disseminated**

Processing units equipped:

- 22 industrial and smallholder units equipped**
- 11 new Super Cereals producers launched in Burkina Faso**

Toward more nutrition-sensitive interventions

Capacity-strengthening, either through training or exchange of experiences in the context of triangular or South-South cooperation, coupled with awareness-raising aimed at behaviour change, was a cross-cutting theme in all nutrition interventions during the year. Several countries,

such as Burkina Faso and CAR, developed a social and behaviour change strategy (SBCC) strategy with RBD's support. Other countries plan to follow suit and go further by adopting a sensitive nutrition strategy in a context where nutrition became a cross-cutting issue in WFP's Global Strategic Plan 2022-2025, intending to maximise the nutrition impact of all the organisation's interventions.





HIV



129,525 people living with or affected by HIV received nutrition, food, or livelihood assistance in **12 countries**.

15 countries helped strengthen national capacities for identifying HIV-related food and nutrition vulnerabilities, building nutrition care and counselling capacities for People Living with HIV, and advancing inclusive and HIV-sensitive social protection.

Despite significant progress in the HIV response in the past ten years, the pace remains too slow for the region to achieve the global AIDS targets by 2030. West Africa continues to bear a disproportionately high HIV burden, with one out of four children born with HIV globally and 39 percent of annual global AIDS-related deaths in children in 2021. The number of new HIV infections among children in West Africa remains high due to a lack of access to Antiretrovirals for the Prevention of Mother-to-child Transmission. Furthermore, stigma and discrimination remain widespread, preventing many People living with HIV (PLHIV) from accessing the care, treatment, and livelihood they need to live a healthy, dignified, and fulfilling life.

Food insecurity and HIV interact in a vicious cycle. Hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity increase negative social risk management strategies that put people at risk of HIV exposure and hinder antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation and adherence. In turn, HIV weakens the

immune system, limits nutrient absorption, and destabilises household food security by increasing medical expenses and affecting productivity and livelihoods. HIV food and nutrition vulnerability assessments conducted in the region show that the malnutrition and food insecurity levels among ART clients and their households are of concern and require interventions. In addition, a recent online assessment among PLHIV in 12 West Africa countries revealed that 80 percent did not have health insurance and that 77 percent were unaware of any available social safety net programs in their countries.

Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, protecting the livelihoods of HIV-affected households, and ensuring access to inclusive social protection can help prevent HIV and ensure treatment efficacy and outcomes. As a cosponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), WFP contributes to the HIV response through various interventions.

In 2022, WFP continued to strengthen its collaborations with governments, partners, and communities to provide food and nutrition assistance and promote inclusive social protection for people living with or affected by HIV. Despite funding challenges, WFP maintained a malnutrition treatment program targeting PLHIV in Cameroon, CAR, and Guinea and resumed it in Guinea Bissau, allowing 22,663 malnourished ART clients to receive SNF to ensure their nutritional recovery and improve their health outcomes.

More than 59,000 vulnerable people affected by HIV, most of them household members of ART clients receiving malnutrition care and treatment, received food assistance to support their food security and promote the retention of PLHIV in care. Several pilot initiatives using cash transfers to help food security, improved nutrition, ART initiation, adherence, or HIV viral suppression, were also launched or strengthened in Chad, Mali, or Niger. Livelihood support to 20,835 vulnerable PLHIV was also implemented in Benin, Cameroon, Guinea, and Ghana through capacity strengthening, equipment provision, seed funding for income-generating activities, and the creation and support of farmers' groups and cooperatives. Efforts to improve HIV-inclusive programming

were conducted with Cameroon CO, paving the way for more regional integration in the coming years.

Furthermore, WFP continued to provide technical assistance to strengthen national HIV responses and HIV-sensitive social protection through studies, advocacy, and training. In Northeast Nigeria and the Central African Republic, WFP supported HIV food and nutrition vulnerability assessments. At the same time, studies on the HIV sensitivity of social protection systems and their accessibility to vulnerable PLHIV were conducted in Niger and Togo. WFP and UNAIDS published reports on lessons learned from their joint cash transfer initiative targeting marginalised PLHIV and key populations in four West Africa countries in the COVID-19 context. The UN Joint Team on AIDS finalised a regional mapping on HIV and social protection whose findings and recommendations were presented in an abstract and poster at the 24th International AIDS conference and are being used to develop a joint UN proposal on building capacities to expand social protection to people living with HIV in West Africa.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

Overview

The impact of the current global food crisis, climate emergency, and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of developing robust and inclusive social protection systems as core elements of national responses to socio-economic effects of large-scale crises as well as contributed to making social protection a priority in many countries in the region. Moreover, investments in social protection are proven to address the root causes of poverty and hunger and this cycle of crisis over the longer term.

Social protection systems in the region are nascent, and existing programmes are generally fragmented and limited in reach, with only 12 percent of the region's population covered by at least one social protection benefit. Therefore, helping governments to scale up and enhance social protection is a key component of WFP's work with governments in West Africa, with the goal of increasing people's access to national social protection systems that safeguard and foster their ability to meet their food security, nutrition, and associated essential needs, and also to manage the risks and shocks they face.

Leveraging our field presence and experience, WFP worked with national governments, regional bodies, and development partners to strengthen the building blocks of social protection systems

focusing on system architecture, programme design and implementation, and knowledge and learning. For instance, WFP partnered with the World Bank and UNICEF in generating an annual shock-responsive social protection status overview to provide a meta-overview of the trends in the region that informs strategic advice at country level, as well as advocacy efforts and increased visibility of progress made across the region.

Scoping studies for more tailored support to national social protection systems

Social protection scoping studies were conducted in the region with the aim to provide WFP country offices with strategic and operational recommendations in the identification of entry points and opportunities for further engagement in the social protection sectors of their respective countries. The studies are an analysis of the gaps within the national social protection systems vis-à-vis WFP's dual social protection objectives – food and nutrition security and shock response.

By request, RBD in 2022 supported Benin, Cameroun, The Gambia, and Nigeria COs to conduct scoping studies of their national social protection systems. In general, the COs leveraged on these studies to develop their CSPs and their internal social protection strategy for medium-

and long-term engagement and partnership in the sector as well as to improve other ongoing initiatives with the Governments.

Responding to the 2022 Global Food Crisis through Social Protection Systems

Effective social protection delivery, as well as system building, should go hand-in-hand in the response to the Global Food Crisis, to reach the dramatically increased needs of the population in the region and simultaneously enhance the structural underlying causes of food security and vulnerability. In a context of recurrent shocks, persistent stressors, and structural vulnerabilities, WFP is committed to seizing opportunities to build the resilience of individuals, communities, and systems and address the root causes of vulnerability while at the same time ensuring immediate impact on those most affected.

WFP provided technical support and advisory services, delivery on behalf of governments, and complementarities within our own programming as efforts to enhance the shock responsiveness of such systems at policy, programme, and delivery levels.

In countries such as Mauritania, WFP supported the expansion of the national shock-responsive safety net programme, El Maouna, to assist populations severely affected by the lean season as well as collaborated with the World Bank to help the Government develop a risk-financing strategy and institutionalising the National Food and Nutrition Crisis Response Fund established in 2022.

WFP provided support and inputs to the national social protection policies and strategies in Nigeria, Chad, and Sierra Leone, ensuring the inclusion of shock-responsiveness to address the impact of covariate shocks as well as food security and nutrition-sensitive approaches.

In Niger, WFP supported the expansion of the national safety net “drought response” to double the programme’s reach. The intervention simultaneously addressed the cumulative

effects of other shocks on the same households, including insecurity and the Global Food Crisis.

In Sierra Leone, WFP advocated an increased transfer value under the national safety net programme to reach targeted vulnerable population with increased benefits to better help them manage the current shock and improve their access to nutritious foods.

In Burkina Faso, WFP provided technical assistance to the Government in the reinforcement of their systems for shock response which led to defining institutional arrangements, an increased number of people supported in the national safety nets project (following the transfer of beneficiaries from WFP to the project and an update of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) used by the national safety nets project to increase its transfer value during the lean season.

In Mali, WFP targeted people assisted by Jigisemejiri’ (flagship national safety net) and provided pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under two years of age with nutritional support, supporting the affordability of nutritious foods for these vulnerable groups. WFP also aligned with Jigisemejiri to extend its benefits to affected populations in 21 communes where the national programme was not present.

Linking Disaster Risk Financing and Social Protection

The scale-up of social protection programmes to respond to shocks such as flood and droughts to which West Africa is prone remains crucial and can be sustained through arranged financing that can enable rapid, cost-effective, and reliable responses. To meet the financial needs associated with disasters, governments can either prepare financial instruments in advance or arrange finance after a disaster took place. Such instruments can be in form of reserved funds, risk insurance, bonds, and loans, among others. Disaster risk financing tools supported by WFP across the region include micro-insurance for small-holder farmers to cover loss of crops; macro-insurance such as the Africa Risk Capacity

(ARC) Replica scheme for natural disasters; anticipatory actions such as social transfers to reach households or communities ahead of a forecast weather shock; and climate information such as weather forecast services tailored to communities/farmers.

The linkages between social protection and disaster risk financing are significant approaches being explored in the region to maximise impact in a predictable response to disasters. As a crucial pillar of shock responsive social protection, WFP worked with governments and partners to ensure that financing strategies are in place to sustain the expansion of social protection programmes in anticipation or response to shocks. In Mauritania, for instance, WFP and the World Bank are assisting the Government develop a risk-financing strategy and supported the emergence of the National Food and Nutrition Crisis Response Fund (FNRCAN), a financial and budgetary mechanism that ensures funding of the annual response to slow onset crises from the Government and other funding sources. Social protection integration with micro- and macro-insurance mechanisms are equally explored. At the 2022 annual ARC Replica meeting, WFP facilitated strategic reflections on the role of microinsurance to promote shock-responsive social protection, and how to better integrate the ARC and ARC Replica pay-outs and social protection systems for enhanced efficiency and sustainability.

Improving the expansion of social registries

The social registry as part of a social protection system continues to have big political traction among governments in West Africa. The lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic showed that having an information system in place was useful to roll out faster and more efficient support, instead of starting from scratch. However, these systems can be better integrated for vulnerability targeting (as they are poverty-focused), risks identification, preparedness, emergency data collection to complement data that exists, and learning and planning. In 2022, WFP launched a study to generate evidence and analyse how social

registries in West Africa capture vulnerability.

Across the region, WFP is supporting governments in their development and improvement of their social registry. To ensure inclusive targeting, WFP supported the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) in Cameroon to develop the social registry targeting methodology to ensure the tool captures multiple dimensions of vulnerability, making it useful to determine the eligibility for different social protection programmes. In Mali, WFP works closely with UNICEF and the World Bank to help the Government in the installation of mobile kiosks at commune level to pioneer on-demand registration for the registry.

In Burkina Faso, WFP together with the World Bank, supported the institutionalisation process of the social registry, through the establishment of the social registry technical unit (Secretariat Technique du Registre Social Unique, ST-RSU), and played a key role in coordination around the social registry. WFP also completed a joint study with the World Bank to assess existing databases to inform the design of the new social registry and promote data protection.

In Mauritania, WFP supported a joint study on the social registry that helped ensure the inclusion of refugees from Mali (who started receiving cash transfer from the national Tekavoul cash-transfer programme during the 2022 lean season), hence allowing more efficient and coordinated targeting and access to social protection benefits.



SCHOOL FEEDING



3,650,433

School children reached directly by WFP



284,735

Children reached with take home rations

Home-Grown School Feeding

Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) is a school meals model designed to provide children with safe, diverse, and nutritious food sourced locally from smallholder farmers. Beyond its contribution to the development of children's human capital, the HGSF programme also has a positive economic impact on smallholder farmers by providing them with a stable market, thereby contributing to the development of the agricultural sector. In 2022, WFP Gambia transferred USD 836,121 to schools in Upper River and Central River regions for school-level food procurement, while 959.44 mt of locally produced rice and beans valued at USD 765,103 was procured locally and delivered to schools in North Bank Region. Togo supported nine smallholder farmer organisations to ensure the delivery of local agricultural food products to school canteens, and the 50 pilot schools benefited from WFP's support to implement their integrated school meals programme based on

local production. In Sierra Leone, the home-grown pilot targeted over 5,200 children in Kambia and Pujehun districts. The model involved WFP buying rice from 146 farmer organisations supported through its agricultural programme and delivering it directly to schools. WFP also transferred cash directly to dedicated school bank accounts to enable schools to buy fresh, nutritious vegetables from local smallholders.

Supporting girls' education

Promoting girls' education is considered a priority for countries in the region, especially those in fragile contexts or facing humanitarian crises, considering the huge challenges and gaps related to young and adolescent girls' access to quality education and their retention to school in these areas. To increase girls' enrolments in schools, WFP CAR encouraged summer classes during school holidays by distributing school meals to support girls who had passed their exams. In Chad, WFP provided cash transfers to 29,820 girls, including 8,880 secondary school girls, as part of the Breaking Barriers to Girls Education (BBGE) initiative, which aims at increasing girls' access and retention to education. In Guinea, take-home rations were distributed to 10,728 girls to encourage parents to keep them in school. In Guinea Bissau, removing girls from education is a significant issue and a barrier to their human capital development. To tackle this issue, WFP

distributed take-home rations to girls in grades 5 and 6, which had been years with higher drop-out rates, reaching 22,427 beneficiaries in 2022 and hence providing an incentive for girls' school attendance. In Burkina Faso, WFP provided monthly family take-home rations to more than 4,000 schoolgirls (10 kg of dry cereals per person) to promote girls' education. To encourage their school attendance, girls were required to reach at least 80 percent attendance rates in class to receive their take-home rations.

Scale-up of school meals programme

Scaling up its programmes is the global objective of the School Health and Nutrition (SHN) strategy.

For context 1 countries, this means the scaling up of WFP activities;

for context 2, supporting the transition and scaling up national programmes;

for context 3, strengthening national programmes.

In Benin, 2022 was marked by the expansion of the coverage of the National Integrated School

Meals Programme (PNASI) implemented by WFP on behalf of the Government, from 51 percent to 75 percent of all public primary schools. As a result, the school meals programme reached 5,351 schools and 1,164 273 school children nationwide.

School Connect

School Connect is an integrated web-based mobile platform enabling partners and WFP to better monitor school attendance, students' daily meal consumption, and food inventory to better plan operations and generate useful reports to support operational decision-making and government policy recommendations. It ensures appropriate planning and implementation of school meals activities and relieves school canteens managers from the process of manual data collection of the school meals programme in a country where many schools are in remote areas with limited infrastructure. In 2022, four countries in the region (Cameroon, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Niger) had School Connect pilots ongoing or in preparation. In Guinea Bissau, the School Connect pilot was rolled-out from May 2022 onwards in 47 schools. A further 33 schools were added in November. School directors were



equipped with tablets, power banks, portable solar panels, and internet data and trained on the use of the tool. This led to improved monitoring, digital skills, and the use of the collected real-time data for School Meals planning. There are plans to further scale up School Connect in Guinea-Bissau to reach all 820 assisted schools in 2023.

Country Capacity Strengthening

Country Capacity is about building on existing skills, knowledge, systems, and institutions to enable governments to take responsibility for investing in and managing hunger solutions. By 2030, four country offices in the region (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, and The Gambia) are already planning to hand over the school meals programme to national governments and are implementing national transition plans towards national school meals programmes. Other four countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Sao Tome and Principe) are implementing nationally owned home-grown school meals programmes and are benefiting from WFP's expertise and technical assistance to strengthen the quality of these national programmes.

In 2022, WFP put significant efforts into supporting governments in the region to strengthen their systems and capacities to reinforce or take ownership of school meals programmes. To identify national capacity-strengthening needs for implementing and managing school meals, WFP Benin conducted bilateral and region-wide consultations, bringing together nearly 60 participants, including technical executives from sectoral ministries, United Nations agencies, civil society, and the private sector. This led to a joint capacity-strengthening needs assessment, a national capacity-strengthening plan, and an updated gradual skills transfer roadmap launched at a dedicated workshop. Ghana facilitated a South-South and Triangular Cooperation knowledge exchange in Benin for Ghana's School Meals Programme managers. In addition to an intensive session to learn about Benin's national school meals programme, the mission visited the Songhai Centre to discover more about Songhai's integrated approach to food security.

School Meals Coalition

In 2022, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Cote d'Ivoire joined the School Meals Coalition, bringing to 15 the number of RBD countries having joined. Burkina Faso became the first country in the region to submit their national commitments, quickly followed by The Gambia.

Energizing School Feeding

Energising School Feeding (ESF) is part of the Energy for Food Security (E4FS) interventions in WFP programmes. It includes, for example, access to clean and modern energy for cooking and preservation of food in school canteens. By enabling access to efficient cooking solutions and electricity, ESF activities can improve children's nutrition, reduce emissions and deforestation, and support gender equality, health, and general development.

RBD has an E-HGSF pilot in Guinea, the Cooltainer4Women project in The Gambia, and upcoming ESF pilots in Sao Tome and Principe, and Mauritania. Discussions are ongoing on ESF interventions with Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo, and Benin, and EFS missions were conducted in Sao Tome and Principe, The Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Ghana.



RESILIENCE AND FOOD SYSTEMS



2,374,459

people supported through asset creation activities



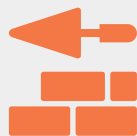
\$ 39,543,666

transferred to households participating in asset creation



32,814 ha

of agricultural land cultivated/rehabilitated under FFA



15,720

assets built, restored or maintained by targeted communities in FFA



1,495 ha

of agricultural land benefiting from rehabilitated irrigation scheme

Overview

WFP supports vulnerable communities in the region through resilience-building activities, targeting the most food-insecure people. WFP's food assistance-for-assets (FFA) activity supports participants – selected jointly with the community – to rebuild or strengthen their productive assets to improve their capacity to withstand climate or other related shocks. The WFP resilience model includes an integrated package of activities such as land rehabilitation through FFA, school meals, nutrition prevention and treatment, and income-generating activities.

Across the G5 Sahel countries, 3.15 million people

benefitted from a WFP-integrated resilience package in more than 2,800 villages. Through FFA activities, 1.8 million people participated in asset creation and rehabilitation activities, including 62,516 hectares of land rehabilitated, 847 ponds constructed or rehabilitated and 172 wells/shallow wells constructed.

The monitoring results in 2022 showed that resilience programmes provided a buffer against instability by strengthening social cohesion and reducing natural resource conflicts.

Regional strategic support

In 2022, RBD closely collaborated with the

relevant government institutions at national, regional, and local levels at all stages of programme design, planning, management, monitoring, and evaluation to ensure government ownership and alignment with national policies. The key priorities were to increase the use of the Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) tools, strengthen monitoring of resilience activities, support multi-sectoral coordination, and contribute to design or update national policies on local purchases, community nutrition, and school meals. For instance, in Mauritania, Burkina Faso, and Niger, WFP supported the governments in national school meals reforms, promoting home-grown school meals to improve school attendance and nutrition of children while contributing to the incomes of smallholder farmers and boosting the local economy.

Moreover, in 2022, RBD ensured an overall regional coordination of the Sahel Joint Program in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Crisis (SD3C) over five countries (Burkina, Mali, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, and Senegal). It is an initiative of the G5 Sahel countries plus Senegal in partnership with the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariate, FAO, IFAD, WFP, and the farmer organisations.

RBD also supported the Sahel University Network (REUNIR) which promotes resilience research in the field. It facilitates the deployment of master's and PhD students from universities to WFP-integrated resilience sites to conduct research for their theses, gaining practical experience and promoting action-oriented research that can inform resilience programming, improve the technical quality of interventions, and capitalize on concrete solutions for food security and resilience in the Sahel.

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)

As part of its integrated resilience programme, WFP implemented a large portfolio of productive and transformative assets to boost and protect the food security and nutrition status of vulnerable populations in West Africa. The Three-Pronged Approach (3PA) linked local, regional, and national contexts to inform policies and strategies

to support the most vulnerable populations to better cope with risks and shocks. In 2022, WFP aimed to provide technical, programme design, and operational support to strengthen planning capacity at the national and sub-national levels by strengthening its partnership with regional universities to adapt 3PA tools. **Burkina Faso** continued to support vulnerable crisis-affected communities across the Centre-Nord, Nord, Est, and Sahel regions as part of its integrated resilience-building programme. WFP expanded its integrated resilience program to 23 new sites, added 57 new villages to existing sites, and extended its operations to new regions, including the Plateau-Central region. However, some locations in the Sahel, Est, and Nord were closed in 2022 due to insecurity. Over 8,200 hectares of degraded land were restored for agricultural and pastoral purposes, 25 water ponds were built for improved irrigation and livestock feeding, 3,600 fuel-efficient cooking stoves were created to save energy and reduce beneficiaries' time spent collecting firewood, 30,450 m³ of compost were produced to improve soil fertility, and 58,800 tree seedlings were produced to enable reforestation.

In **Chad**, in 2022, Chad integrated resilience programme centred its interventions around water harvesting and utilization for multipurpose projects. To this end, the programme supported the construction of 28.73 km of dikes and 14.76 km of water-spreading structures, dug out 4 ponds and 29 shallow wells. Through these assets the programme was able to create 134 hectares of vegetable gardens and to unlock 5866.58 ha arable land. In addition, the programme supported the production of assorted fruits and forest seedlings that were planted on 105 ha for communal land. Overall, the Chad integrated resilience programme benefited 30,031 households or 150,158 people living in 9 regions and 288 villages (119 percent more than in 2021).

The integrated resilience programme benefited 97,000 people (119 percent more than in 2021). It created 30 hectares of vegetable gardens, 220 hectares of community fields, three irrigation facilities, 5.3 hectares of woodlots (community forests), and 6.5 hectares of gardens. Approximately 400 vulnerable households

benefited from income-generating activities. As part of the reforestation activities, 2,400 trees were planted in schools, and each school canteen could select species appropriate for their environmental context.

In **Niger**, WFP supported over 1.8 million people in 2,000 villages through its integrated resilience program, 588 of which were newly established in villages targeted for resilience activities in 2022. For the first time in 2022, WFP increased capacity-strengthening activities, such as support to smallholder markets, as some villages supported with resilience activities since 2014 stopped receiving FFA assistance. WFP purchased millet and cowpeas worth USD 430,000 from 21 farmer organizations in resilience areas. These organizations were also linked with WFP-supported schools that received cash assistance to purchase school meals, enabling schools to buy fresh food and benefiting the local economy.

In **Mali**, WFP assisted more than 200,000 people in 228 villages across 8 regions. While participating in constructing or rehabilitating over 1,200 community assets, participants received cash transfers worth USD 2.8 million to meet their immediate food needs. Community-based participatory planning (CBPP) exercises were organised to identify livelihood activities (aligned with Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plans) to ensure community ownership. The number of assets created to improve long-term food security and resilience significantly increased from 852 in 2021 to 1,200 in 2022.

In **Mauritania**, FFA activities were implemented in all 68 integrated sites reaching 29,648 beneficiaries in 2022. The programme supported communities in building or rehabilitating productive assets that improve the management of ecosystems and contribute to food production and household-level income generation. Five hundred twenty-four hectares of agricultural land were rehabilitated, and 22,675 meters of stone bunds and small dikes were constructed to control water runoff and erosion. Furthermore, 12 dams and floodwater diversion weirs were built with the potential to produce enough water to meet the needs of around 1,380 households.

Support to Smallholder Farmers

RBD provided guidance and support to COs to promote a demand-driven, value-chain development approach to improve smallholder livelihoods and promote systemic changes along the value chain in accordance with the Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) framework. The WFP's SAMS program equips farmers with various skills and market connections to improve local food systems along the value chain.

In **Guinea**, WFP and its partners trained 299 farmer organizations (representing 11,755 beneficiaries and 5,760 women) in sustainable agricultural production and processing practices, good governance, and simplified management. These also benefitted from materials and equipment for producing, processing, and transporting agricultural products, with a total value of USD 932,973. Twenty-one of these farmer organizations in the rice sector were trained in post-harvest loss management. In addition, WFP has supported women's economic empowerment through training opportunities and contributes to national priorities to empower women and girls through economic opportunities and market access. In 2022, 304 women among the 380 members of 38 associations WFP has worked with were trained in leadership, entrepreneurship, governance, simplified accounting, marketing, sustainable agricultural practices, transformation, and savings and credit schemes.

WFP's SAMS programme continued to provide interlinkages between smallholder farmers and WFP's home-grown school meals market. WFP purchased 16,622 mt of food, worth USD 8.8 million, directly from smallholder farmers in 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Guinea, Niger, Sierra Leone, Benin, Chad, and CAR).

CO Highlights

- **Burkina Faso:** In 2022, WFP and other UN agencies established an anticipatory action (AA) framework to mitigate the impact of a potential drought, which includes activities targeting at-risk communities and individuals in the event of a drought.

- **Chad:** Emphasis was given to strengthening the capacity of small landholders' farmers' production and post-harvest handling activities. In 2022, the programme supported the construction of 8 community-managed magazines, trained 377 farmers on post-harvesting management techniques, and 30 NGO and WFP staff on group formation, entrepreneurship, and marketing. In addition, the programme strengthened the capacity of women's village Saving Lending groups.
- **Mali:** As part of the WFP's MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development on capacity strengthening, WFP supported the ministry in developing and implementing an action plan to promote and coordinate resilience activities, as well as gradually take over training on the 3PA tools.
- **Ghana:** To reduce post-harvest loss, WFP provided silos to 341 farmers in 4 regions and issued agricultural equipment, including threshers, weighing scales, tricycles, moisture meters, and tarpaulins to 17 aggregators (3 females, 15 males) across 6 regions, facilitating productive activities. These initiatives helped farmers store their farm produce without using chemicals to maintain the quality of the grains, and aggregators are now earning supplementary incomes from renting out the equipment to other farmers.
- **Mauritania:** WFP organised a boot camp on water and soil conservation techniques and soil defence and restoration in Assaba in October 2022. The boot camp aimed to explore innovative approaches adapted to the local context and equip communities with the necessary technical knowledge of asset creation and maintenance. Over 61 participants, including technical services, cooperating partners, WFP staff, governmental staff, and local community members, were trained, and the transfer of technical know-how was applied throughout the implementation of FFA.
- In **Niger**, resilience sites were used to introduce fuel-efficient solutions to reduce reliance on firewood while reducing air

pollution and deforestation and creating a smoke-free environment. Nearly 38,450 fuel-efficient stoves were built in homes, 734 schools benefiting from school meals, and 1,227 in FARN. Thirty-seven farmer organizations were trained on crop and vegetable production, processing, quality control, and marketing techniques for fortified peanut oil and fortified millet flour as part of the regional CRIALCES project, which promotes the supply of locally produced fortified foods.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The following challenges were met and are still to be fixed in 2023, mainly at programmatic integration level:

- Programmatic integration to leverage synergies between activities and entry points for a food systems approach
- Need to continue pushing for a mindset shift toward Food Systems
- Explore expanding models such as dedicated resilience coordinators at country level
- Invest in evidence generation as key for advocacy
- Capacity and funding to undertake Value Chain Analysis
- Capacity to influence food systems with governments through policy and regulatory frameworks
- Modeling "scale" for integrated resilience programming through transformative models
- Applying resilience and food systems lens across all areas of work (e.g., CBT, HGFS, Local Nutrition Products)
- Ensure stabilization of staff including strengthening their capacities and skills to provide continuous and valuable support to the countries.

Continuous capacity strengthening of cooperating partners, staff and government technical services is key for the quality of the interventions. This needs to continue to build sustainable national implementation infrastructures and ensure the sustainability of WFP resilience interventions.



CLIMATE RISK FINANCING

Insurance

In West Africa, WFP is collaborating with a range of public and private sector partners to develop climate risk finance (CRF) programmes that help governments and vulnerable households to anticipate, absorb and rapidly recover from climate shocks. The 2022-2023 drought affecting the agricultural season in Burkina Faso, Mali and The Gambia will trigger a total pay-out of USD 15 million from the ARC Replica insurance instrument in early 2023. This pay-out will enable WFP to provide an early response to a total of 417,000 drought affected people ahead of the traditional 2023 lean season response (six-month implementation after the reception of the pay-out).

The GCF/IFAD “Africa Integrated Climate Risk Management Programme”¹ between WFP and IFAD was signed on 27 December 2022 to support micro-insurance development in seven countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal).

In 2022, 45,000 farmers were covered through a micro-insurance mechanism in Senegal and Burkina Faso.

Anticipatory Action for Climate shocks

In 2022 WFP continued the scale-up of Anticipatory Action (AA) for climate hazards in the region. In Niger WFP continued strengthening the drought AA system and expanded to flood AA system building with the objective to increase the capacity of national stakeholders to use climate forecasts for a more anticipatory approach to address floods and drought risk, to prevent or mitigate their impact.

WFP was also a key actor for the finalization of three CERF-funded UN interagency Anticipatory Action Frameworks for drought in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger. The three AA Frameworks are linked to a total envelop of USD 40 million pre-allocated forecast-based finances to reach 300,000 people in case of a forecasted severe drought.

Notably, the Niger AA Framework relies on the government-led drought forecast and trigger system developed with the support of WFP in recent years.

In August 2022, Niger’s AA Framework was activated, and WFP was allocated USD 2.5 million to reach 48,000 people with anticipatory action in 4 communes of Tillabery, Dosso and Tahoua

¹ Building the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate emergency impacts in 7 Sahelian Countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and The Gambia) of the Great Green Wall (GGW)

regions. Anticipatory action activities include 1) construction of small-scale water catchments through a cash for assets initiative and cash and input distribution with 40,620 people reached in 2022; 2) dissemination of climate information and advisory reached 162,249 people in 2022.

In the long term, WFP plans to cover and reach the most vulnerable with early warnings and AA mechanisms for severe drought and floods across the region, WFP will start this work by focussing its AA efforts in the five Sahelian countries.

Climate Information Services

WFP Mali, Niger, and Senegal worked alongside national meteorology departments to strengthen their weather forecast capacity and coordinate climate services to provide timely climate information and advisories to farmers.

In 2022, over 3.5 million people were provided with direct access to climate and weather information to help them anticipate and mitigate climate risks. The messages were provided in local language via in-person training, community radios and/or mobile phones.

The messages included information on the expected rainfall, the varieties and recommended seeding periods to help farmers plan their activities; forecasts or early warning information to protect productive assets and improve agricultural activities; information on production, and post-harvest techniques, to support farmers make day-to-day agricultural decisions and contribute to increasing agricultural yields.





COUNTRY CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

A New Approach: Contextualized and Problem-Driven

Governments in West Africa are facing some of the most difficult challenges, having to deal with security issues, conflicts, and the ongoing threat of climate change, while simultaneously needing to continue delivering basic services to the population. Against this backdrop, WFP has strengthened its commitment to not only work directly with the population, but also to simultaneously support state and non-state actors to strengthen national capacity and systems.

2022 marked the year for WFP's global policy update for Country Capacity Strengthening. In West Africa, this was translated into an operational framework tailored to the regional context. The region has a wide variation of country contexts: from fragile and conflict-affected to relatively stable; from some of the lowest income in the world to middle income. This wide range of contexts necessitates an operational framework that is flexible, yet effective. In line with the global emerging thinking in the development and humanitarian sector, WFP West Africa's operational framework adopts an approach that is problem-driven, instead of solution-driven. It also embraces the idea of iterative adaptation of solutions, instead of relying on "best practices."

WFP's Country Capacity Strengthening effort now goes beyond the traditional training provisions, and instead relies heavily on co-creation and co-design processes with government counterparts. Whenever possible, governments are engaged as a true partner and become an active participant in program design and implementation, diagnostics and analyses, and monitoring processes. In this new paradigm, capacity and systems strengthening are based not only on technical correctness, but also on administrative feasibility and political supportability on the part of the relevant government counterparts.

Handing Over and Improving National School Meals Programmes

In all countries where WFP is implementing school meals programmes, the end goal has always been the empowerment of governments to be able to directly provide those services. In most countries, this requires a long and deliberate handover process, where WFP works closely with its government counterparts to identify constraints and co-design solutions to set up or strengthen national school meals systems. In a small number of countries where national school meals programmes are already established, WFP's focus is to support governments in expanding coverage, improving quality, and increasing the reliability of

the national school meals programmes.

WFP's advocacy and a Cost Benefit Analysis funded by WFP contributed to an increase in the grant for Ghana School Feeding Programme (GSFP) for the 2023 academic year, benefiting students and other supply chain actors participating in GSFP. The GSFP Secretariat will conduct an internal review of the School Meals Policy, which will inform an external review before finalizing ongoing school meals legislation. In Nigeria, the assessment of the National Home-Grown School Meals Programme by the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, completed with WFP's support in 2021, identified the absence of a stand-alone school meals policy and the insufficiency of budgeted resources as critical gaps. The assessment findings helped the Government of Nigeria increase budgeting from NGN 70 to NGN 100 per child per meal in 2022. WFP will continue to advocate for stronger coherence among official targets set for feeding the nation's schoolchildren, cost-based budgeting, and more adequate levels of government funding.

In Benin, WFP facilitated the formation of a coalition of six government ministries and agencies to collaborate and develop a workable national school meals system. The coalition

identified six building blocks of the national school meals system, and each ministry or agency is taking responsibility for one building block. A special attention was put on the supply chain & local procurement component of the national model. Within this framework, a workshop was organised in April to make a critical review of current practice and results, draw lessons and formulate recommendations on how to improve results in the short term within the framework of the current model but more importantly on how to further strengthen and revise the model in the medium to long term in the spirit of a homegrown approach which creates the right linkage with the national economy and smallholders and improve nutrition results.

Strengthening National Emergency Preparedness and Response

In Mauritania, WFP worked closely with the Observatoire de la Sécurité Alimentaire (OSA) and international non-governmental organisation Action Contre la Faim (ACF) to support early warning data collection, management and analysis. The choice to support the OSA by directly implementing the activities necessary for the operation of the early warning system, in



collaboration with cooperating partner ACF, is motivated by the central role it plays in terms of monitoring the food security situation within the CSA. To date, a total of 127 sentinel sites were created by ACF and the government with technical oversight from WFP to collect and monitor the food security situation across three regions that are often most affected by food insecurity as per the yearly results of the Cadre Harmonisé analysis. These results fed into food security analysis informing population estimates and led to a more real-time monitoring of the ever-evolving food security situation on the ground.

In 2022, WFP supported Mali in conducting national food security and nutrition surveys, household economic analysis, and SMART surveys, providing evidence-based analysis of the country's food insecurity and acute malnutrition situation to inform national policies and humanitarian response. WFP also provided technical expertise and financial assistance to the national early warning systems, improved data collection, and shared food security information with all actors in a timely manner. Work was also done to strengthen the capacities of 40 government agencies, NGOs, and other UN agencies on cropland change analysis, and support was provided to the national meteorological agency in forecasting weather and coordinating climate services. Furthermore, WFP supported the national market information system by providing training, financial and technical support to the Agricultural Market Observatory (OMA), integrated conflict-sensitive approaches and accountability to affected populations in their programmes and promoted safety and dignity while advocating for gender-balance participation in training sessions to ensure vulnerable groups' needs are addressed in relevant policies and plans.

WFP also worked to strengthen Burkina Faso's crisis response and early warning systems through technical assistance and support to government-led coordination mechanisms to improve inter-ministerial coordination and replenished national food security stocks. WFP also partnered with stakeholders such as the World Bank and the European Commission to create an adaptive social protection system

that aims to make vulnerable households more resilient to shocks. WFP played an active role in the operationalization of the national social registry, shared its expertise in vulnerability assessment and targeting, and supported the production of an operational manual for the registry. Additionally, WFP worked to strengthen the national Early Warning System through the establishment of a common integrated framework, enabling Burkina Faso to better prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Supporting National Nutrition Programmes and Food Systems

WFP worked with Ghana's national food safety and quality agencies to advocate for the delivery of safe food for human consumption. WFP also supported the Food and Drugs Authority's advocacy at World Food Safety Day in June. The National Food Safety Policy, to which WFP provided technical support, was launched during the week-long celebration of World Food Safety Day. During the year, budgetary support was given to the University of Ghana towards the drafting of Ghana's Food-Based Dietary Guidelines.

In Central African Republic, WFP continued to support the Government in its agricultural development policy. Technical support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to design the National Strategy for local purchasing and food reserve. This strategy is aligned with the National Roadmap for the Recovery of the Agricultural Sector (2016 – 2018) and aims to boost local food production, improve the economic situation of rural households and fight against food insecurity and malnutrition. The final document will be presented to the Government in 2023 for validation.



PROTECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Overview

WFP Protection and AAP Policy set out the integration of protection and AAP in WFP's work. In 2022, country offices (COs) in West Africa applied relevant principles across a range of functions within WFP to ensure that WFP assistance was meaningful and received safely and dignifiedly.

WFP, in addition to a necessary focus on humanitarian settings, works in the region to ensure a people-centred approach to both lifesaving and life-changing activities in all locations, striving to 'leave no one behind'. WFP's efforts in taking a people-centred approach to operations increases the quality of work, community acceptance and the likelihood of positive and sustainable outcomes.

2022 was challenging, with the shrinking of humanitarian space in Nigeria and Cameroun, the intensification of conflict in the Sahel, and the spill over to the bordering coastal countries. Protection clusters were active in seven countries in the region, and all reported concerning trends, ranging from arbitrary arrest and detention, sexual gender-based violence, forced displacement and deprivation of aid, including food assistance, perpetrated by all parties to the conflicts. In such contexts, WFP is an active member of the cluster, highlighting the

interlinks between violence, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Regional Achievements in Protection and AAP

WFP Protection and AAP teams in the COs worked throughout the programme cycle to apply the four protection mainstreaming principles: prioritise safety and dignity and avoid causing harm; meaningful access; accountability; and participation and empowerment.

Do no harm includes efforts to prevent and minimise as much as possible any unintended adverse effects of our intervention, which could increase people's vulnerability to both physical and psychosocial risks. Particular attention was paid to distance from distribution sites, unhindered access, and prioritization of people with specific needs. In Guinea-Bissau, WFP partnered with Humanity Inclusion (HI), through its school meals program to encourage students with disabilities to access education.

The principle of meaningful access involves arranging for people's access to assistance in proportion to their needs and without any barriers, including discrimination. Efforts were made throughout WFP operations to ensure special attention was given to individuals and groups facing challenges accessing assistance.

In Nigeria, WFP provided three months unconditional food assistance to ex Boko Haram combatants and their families as part of a UNDP DDR program and in line with the Protection Cluster guidance note prepared by the Nigeria Protection Cluster in October 2021.

Protection mainstreaming was further promoted through various capacity-building initiatives, active participation, and collaboration in inter-agency fora.

WFP's Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) aims at adopting a people-centred approach, at all levels of WFP programming. The 2021-2026 Community Engagement for AAP Strategy (2021-2026) establishes three pillars: inclusion, community feedback and response, and information management.

WFP implemented Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) across 13 countries. Beneficiaries and the broader affected population have access to various communication channels, including hotlines, helpdesks, suggestion boxes and face-to-face interactions with field staff and CFM focal points. Subsequently, from January to December 2022, WFP in the region received 112,660 enquiries, with 92 percent of these (103,938) being solved.

Challenges Encountered and Addressed

Part of accountability is ensuring that issues identified through robust community engagement leads to practical adjustments and follow-up. This is part of a two-way communication and closing the feedback loop, for WFP to not only act on inputs provided by the communities but to further ensure the solution implemented was appropriate and is perceived positively by those concerned. In Chad, for example, community feedback enabled WFP to identify gaps and formulate recommendations for programme adjustments. Following feedback from women that the distance of a distribution site could expose them to the risk of gender-based violence, WFP changed the location of the site to help women return home safely after distributions. More generally, to reduce protection risks associated with beneficiaries travelling long distances, WFP sought to locate distribution sites within 5 km of beneficiaries' homes.



GENDER

Strengthening the foundation

In 2022, WFP sought to mainstream gender in its humanitarian response in West Africa and aimed to address the underlying causes of gender inequality through its resilience-building activities. While some activities specifically targeted women and girls, WFP promoted equal participation, decision-making, and leadership by men and women in all programmes.

RBD developed a Regional Gender Implementation plan that aligns with the 2022 Gender Policy and considers regional and country-level priorities. The Gender team was reinforced to be able to provide dedicated support to CO in integrating Gender in the implementation of their CSP. In addition, the Region has an increased number of Gender officers, and five Country Directors were trained on the Gender transformative programme in line with the policy's focus on accountability at the leadership level on Gender issues.

RBD strengthened its partnership with like-minded Gender organizations such as CARE International and Ecowas Centre for Gender and Development.

Women and girls' empowerment through programming

Several countries in the region supported women's economic empowerment. In The Gambia, WFP has significantly improved sanitation by providing women access to breastfeeding facilities and clean toilets by constructing bathroom blocks, women's resting huts, and solar drying racks. The solar drying racks will support more efficient fish processing. In addition, WFP trained 761 women fishmongers in business management, financial literacy, and gender mainstreaming to enhance their managerial and business skills.

In Liberia, Village and Savings Loans Associations were established as a mechanism to facilitate access to funding to support women's businesses. Women in two smallholder farmers' organizations increased their income through training they received in post-harvest management, marketing, and management of village savings and loan associations. A women's group has moved from being a small producer group to a large producer group that is now aggregating locally produced commodities and selling to school meals implementing partners and other market outlets in the country.



To empower women, WFP targets women heads of household for cash interventions linking them to FFA activities. Increased financial inclusion efforts are an opportunity to connect women to existing financial and digital tools. Opportunities for women will be further explored through the ongoing BMG project in Ghana and the associated gender analysis.

Women represent up to 70 percent of the agricultural labour force and play a crucial role in all steps of the food system, from production to transformation, markets, access, and consumption. They have limited access to financial resources, services, and market opportunities, and the roles and contributions of women and girls remain unrecognised. Three Country Offices (Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal) were selected for the Mastercard Foundation project focusing on women and youth economic empowerment in agriculture. The interventions will identify challenges young women face that must be addressed to ensure that the project provides employment and income-generating opportunities for them across the value chain.



ENVIRONMENT

WFP's 2017 Environmental Policy commits WFP to systematically identify, avoid and manage environmental risks from its programmes and operations. The policy is comprised of three main implementation tools, which together form WFP's Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework:

- A set of core environmental and social standards
- A process for screening and categorising environmental risk (for programme implementation and construction activities)
- An environmental management system (EMS)

Further, adopting an EMS, in line with international best practices, is now a key deliverable of the [UN System Sustainability Management Strategy 2020-2030](#), approved by the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination in May 2019.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

An EMS is a management tool organization used to identify, manage, and reduce environmental impact. Specifically for WFP, the EMS across the region focuses on energy management and decarbonization, waste and wastewater management, water conservation, sustainable procurement, and staff awareness & training. In 2022, Environmental Management Systems (EMS) were implemented in 11 countries in West Africa with special focus on waste management and decarbonization in Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone,

Liberia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal. EMS implementation will scale up and conclude in 2023 in Burkina Faso, Sao Tome and Principe, Mauritania, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo, and The Gambia.

Niger, Mali, and Senegal were very active in locating and securing the services of electronic waste management providers. In Liberia, discussions took place with the Environmental Protection Agency to find solutions for waste fuel management. Chad and Nigeria were awarded Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) grants worth USD 265,000 and USD 207,000 to install solar panels and reduce WFP's carbon footprint. Ghana considered several renewable energy projects, such as biomass and waste-to-energy. Plastic waste management was a top priority for Cameroon, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Mali, and Central African Republic. In Chad, the warehouse in Ndjamena displayed the best model in the region in terms of recycling broken wooden pallets and metal reused for boxes, security fencing, and stormwater management. Finally, a decarbonization strategy meeting was facilitated between Guinea and Niger to use Niger as a model where several facilities are powered exclusively by solar energy.



EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATION CLUSTER

WFP's Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) set up the first community centre in Diffa (Niger). The place called Shimoduram! as proposed by the youth communities of the city combines the concept of a place of access to information, training, and learning. The centre aims to play a vital role in bridging the digital divide and ensuring digital inclusion among vulnerable populations such as IDPs, refugees, and host populations. It will help build their resilience by providing internet connectivity, digital learning, and access to life-saving information. The team contributed to WFP's efforts and policies to reduce its operation's carbon footprint and sustainably manage renewable resources by deploying a solar system as the primary energy source in the newly built community centre.

In addition, RBD ETC unit carried out an ICT for communities needs assessment in Burkina Faso that covered 2,002 people, including members of host populations, IDPs, and refugees in 9 sites located in the regions of Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel. The assessment's findings provided evidence-based information on the access and use of mobile telephony by vulnerable people in Burkina Faso within the current country context regarding the potential for and barriers to digitalizing humanitarian assistance. In 2022, these ITC services reached over 3,200 aid workers from 39 user organizations, reflecting its important role as a key enabler of the humanitarian response in Burkina Faso. In early 2022, the ITCS sector launched an internet

connectivity service in the blockaded town of Djibo. Reaching 80 percent more users than planned, this service represented an essential means of communication for humanitarian and development actors operating in this area. Moreover, internet connectivity service was augmented in the town of Gorom-Gorom, enabling organizations to operate more efficiently in this deep-field location.

Led by WFP in Central African Republic, the ETC provides inter-agency security communications and data connectivity services. Supported by the Common Humanitarian Fund, the ETC enabled communities in the country's largest IDP camp in Bria to access information, communicate with the humanitarian community, and relaunched the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). Through the ETC phone booth and charging station, 3,163 calls were made, and 24,490 devices were charged. Security communications services (training and radio programming) were provided to 1,650 UN and I/NGO staff in 11 sites. The lack of funding seriously impacted the secure communications and internet connectivity services, forcing the interruption of ETC connectivity services in 10 out of 11 sites in August 2022, critically affecting NGOs (mostly) with limited capacity to provide connectivity themselves. Connectivity was maintained in Batangafo thanks to satellite equipment provided by Luxembourg, whose strong support is key to connectivity solutions.



SUPPLY CHAIN

Overview

In 2022, over 397,176 metric tons of food were received in the region, of which 167,506 metric tons (or 40 per cent) arrived through ports in the region (Douala, Lomé, Port Harcourt Cotonou, among others), while the remaining 60 per cent (229,670 metric tons) of food were procured locally and regionally.

In July 2022, the Government of Cape Verde requested WFP's services to source and deliver food for the school meals. This request came at a time when WFP had no presence in the country. Thanks to the good collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Foundation for Social and Educational Action (FICASE, for its Portuguese acronym) and FAO, WFP managed to deliver 1,209 metric tons of diverse food types in Praia.

Purchasing the right food commodities at the right time remained a key consideration in 2022. In this respect, the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) played a central role in WFP's supply chain strategy in West Africa. Notably, the GCMF enabled WFP to initiate procurement processes earlier, reduce lead times, and consequently reach crisis-affected people with life-saving assistance more rapidly. In addition, the GCMF allowed WFP to purchase food when market conditions were more favourable, and thus achieve a greater value for money. In

2022, WFP purchased 304,501 metric tons of food from the GCMF in West Africa.

Logistics

Considering the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel and its impact on WFP's ability to continuously supply operations, particularly the unpredictability of the existing supply roads with attacks on trucks and food losses, in 2022, WFP conducted a supply roads assessment to identify alternative corridors for landlocked countries in the region.

In 2022, around 721,449 metric tons were transported by local transporters on 14,487 trucks and 405,583 metric tons were handed over to the cooperating partners for distribution. Furthermore, an estimated USD 240.5 million were injected into the local economy through the local purchase of food (USD 167.9 million) and transport activities (USD 72.5 million).

WFP Fleet

WFP has 87 operational trucks¹ that transported 21,340 metric tons of food in 2022. WFP fleets complement the commercial transport capacity in locations and operations where transporters are not willing to go or when their transport capacity cannot meet WFP's demand.

¹ Niger (6), Liberia (8), Sierra Leone (11), Chad (14) and Central African Republic (48)

Supply chain Bilateral Service Provision

WFP provides logistics services in many countries in the region. The flagship program was carried within the framework of WFP Global fund agreements for the transport and distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) or drugs for malaria, HIV, and TB. Those services were provided in Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, and Liberia.

Furthermore, in 2022, the government of Burkina Faso and the World Bank partnered with WFP to acquire and deliver 70,000 mt of cereals (rice, sorghum, and millet) to SONAGESS stores. During the phase 1, WFP purchased and delivered 32,817 mt of mixed cereals, mainly sorghum, millet and rice.

In June 2022, the government of Mauritania officially requested WFP's support to purchase and deliver wheat, a staple food experiencing price inflation, to Nouakchott through additional financing for the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Project 2 (known as the PRAPS-2 project). However, the procurement process was left on stand-by waiting for the Government's final confirmation.

Food Safety Quality Assurance (FSQA)

- **FSQA Resources and Presence**

FFSQA is expanding and consolidating its presence in the region and has led the assessment and review of the regulatory and institutional aspects of national quality infrastructures in Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Benin, Chad, among other countries. This has supported the capability and capacity to mitigate food safety incidents and increase the flexible operational capacity to manage food incidents.

- **Strategic Support and Oversight**

FSQA coordinated a strategic workshop in Benin to reflect on the food safety and quality situation and reflect on the technical capacity

and procedures required for sourcing locally food products to support the school feeding programme. To understand the national regulatory framework, participants included relevant government institutes and agencies involved in FSQ and school feeding.

In Liberia and Guinea, WFP collaborated with CERFAM for the assessment of postharvest losses in the rice value chain and conducted a training on post-harvest loss management.

- **Food Safety and Quality Infrastructure in RBD and Local Standards Review**

WFP conducted risk assessments and regulatory benchmarking exercises for canned fish and in-kind rice in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone. A country-specific standard for cottonseed oil was developed to support the local procurement requirement for the school meals programme in Benin. Furthermore, 28 national standards were purchased from 8 national standardisation bodies and regulatory risks were highlighted through the local standards review project that included Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon.

- **Local and Regional Food Sourcing**

Through strong and continuous technical support and assistance, WFP secured sourcing of Super Cereal from a local supplier in Ghana that is now exporting to Burkina Faso and Afghanistan. Eight potential and current suppliers were audited through third-party auditing firms in 2022 covering high and medium-risk products (Super Cereal, fortified complementary food and flours, and vegetable oil). Forty-five technical assessments were conducted in Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, Benin, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and The Gambia for fortified rice, salt, and grains.

- **Food Safety and Quality in CBT**

CBT is one of the major food assistance modalities in the West Africa region. In 2022, FSQ provided technical workshops and training to retailers, wholesalers, field monitors, M&E colleagues, TPM, and CPs and assessed the safety and quality of all food sold by retailers. Furthermore, regular field visits to retailers and premises were conducted.



- **Food Incidents**

In general, there was a decrease in the number of food incidents reported in 2022 compared to 2021 where the number recorded was 8 by October 2022 compared to 21 by December 2021. This decrease was mostly due to the active involvement of the food safety team in the region. The FSQ experts conducted regular risk analysis and ensured mitigation actions were proactive and reactive in nature. On top of that there were several capacity strengthening and technical support provided to stakeholders and WFP staff, thus increasing awareness on Food Safety and Quality.

- **Foster Implementation**

The Food Safety and Quality Terrain (FOSTER) is WFP registered platform for managing food shipment and supplier compliance to food specifications, guaranteeing safe and high-quality distribution of food to WFP's beneficiaries around the world. FOSTER improved the speed and efficiency of FSQ processes such as inspections, audits, and product testing while providing a rich database to better control the risk and performance of our suppliers and food products. It was successfully implemented in RBD in 2 phases from May to July and has been gradually extended to 17 COs in 2022.

Support to the Countries

In 2022, RBD conducted various missions in the region to provide operational support to country offices, assess internal control systems and processes, evaluate the implementation of supply chain standard procedures, and build the capacity of field teams.

- **Logistics:** Liberia, Togo, Chad, Burkina, Cameroon, Benin, Central African Republic, Ghana
- **Procurement:** Chad, Benin, Ghana, Mauritania, Burkina
- **FSQA:** Burkina, Sao Tomé, Central African Republic, Ghana





UNHAS

The WFP-managed UNHAS continued to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective, and timely air transport of passengers and light cargo in West Africa. In 2022, due to the precarious security situation, long distances and poor road conditions, air transport played a crucial role in facilitating humanitarian access. This service was the only viable solution to access several hard-to-reach areas due to insecurity thus underpinning the humanitarian response. In addition, UNHAS continued to facilitate the evacuation of aid workers from the most remote and challenging deep field locations, particularly in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria. Operating in nine countries in the region, UNHAS transported 89,805 passengers and 33,177 mt of cargo in 2022.

In Burkina Faso, 100 user organisations were supported, among which 64 percent were international NGOs, 11 percent national NGOs, 23 percent UN agencies, and 2 percent diplomatic missions and donors. While it received no requests for security evacuations, UNHAS performed thirteen medical evacuations of humanitarian personnel.

Insecurity in areas such as Menaka, Ansongo (Gao), Niono (Segou) and Gourma-Rharous (Tombouctou) significantly reduced the humanitarian space and created barriers to

assisting crisis-affected populations in Mali. UNHAS remained a critical and essential air service provider to the humanitarian community in the country by providing air transport services to 134 organisations. UNHAS served 110 percent of the planned passengers, exceeding the pre-pandemic levels of passengers transported and delivered 84 mt of light humanitarian cargo.

Although there was a decrease in UNHAS services at the beginning of the year due to the ECOWAS sanctions, which restricted air transport, by the end of February, UNHAS resumed flights, enabling the humanitarian and development community to continue delivering lifesaving and life-changing assistance. A gradual increase was observed throughout the year, and the total number of passengers transported in 2022 increased by 15 percent compared to the previous year.

Therefore, UNHAS was essential to Cameroon's humanitarian community, the United Nations, and diplomatic missions. Nonetheless, in 2022, UNHAS operated under strict restrictions imposed by the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA), including reduced flight capacity (20 seats out of the 50 per flight) on the Maroua route and suspension of flights to Bamenda/Northwest from May 2022. From June all flights were suspended. However, the UN Resident Coordinator is pursuing his advocacy for flight resumption.



HUMAN RESOURCES

WFP People in Western Africa

WFP operates in increasingly challenging environments through a broad range of activities to save lives and change lives. WFP's dedicated and committed workforce is fundamental to high and robust performance now and in the future. WFP employees, regardless of their roles, and through the strength of their diversity, are the most important and valuable resource driving the organisation's mission. Building and empowering an agile, diverse, talented and engaged workforce that works to save lives and change lives is critical to achieve a world with zero hunger. In 2022, WFP's workforce in West Africa totalised 3,316 employees compared to 3,046 in 2021, an annual increase of 8.85 percent.

Measurement of diversity in the workforce mainly focuses on gender and geographic representation. RBD has been committed over the years to improving gender representation. From a ratio of women of 23 percent in early 2017, West Africa reached 35 percent in 2022.

Geographic diversity has also been crucial to ensuring a wide representation of nations amongst WFP's workforces. In 2022, RBD counted 82 nationalities compared to 79 nationalities in 2021. 84 percent of the staff in West Africa are nationals from the country where they work, and 16 percent of the workforce are international rotational staff or international consultants and short-term staff.





PARTNERSHIPS AND DONOR RELATIONS

Overview – a description of funding in the region for 2022

Facing the unprecedented level of food insecurity in the region, in 2022 WFP made an intensive effort to reach out to the donor community and appeal for their support. WFP is grateful that the donor community responded to our call strongly with a record level of financial support in 2022.

Against its operational needs of USD 2.32 billion in 2022, over USD 1.71 billion was received, including new donor contributions directed to the region as well as allocations from flexible funding and other income. Together with the resources carried forward from the previous year the region's operational needs were fully met in 2022.

Thirty-nine governments supported WFP operations, and several provided record levels of funding. Nine of the countries in the region also provided financial support to WFP, totalling over USD 110 million. Historic levels of funding were also received from private sector partners.

WFP also greatly benefited from flexible funding, allocated from its headquarters. In 2022, WFP West Africa received a total of close to USD 69.5 million flexible contributions, which supported 19 operations across the region. A significant portion of this support was used to provide timely seasonal assistance both for life saving and resilience building activities. These flexible

contributions were instrumental to ensure WFP can respond in a timely manner.

Efforts continued diversifying donor funding sources, and new budget lines were explored even from our traditional donors. Contributions for the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in the Central Sahel were also received for the first time in the region.

Regional achievements

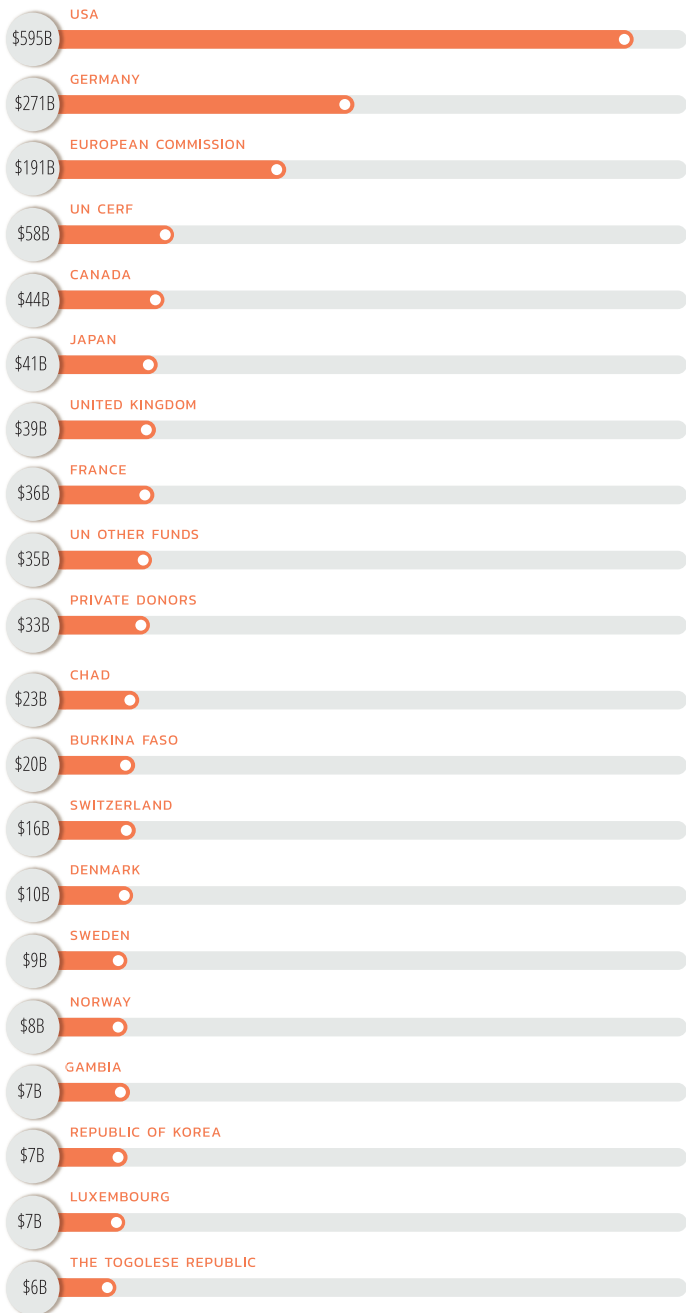


Chart 3: Top 20 Donors in the region

Private sector, IFI engagement, and capacity strengthening

Private sector funding more than doubled in 2022 compared to the previous year to reach USD 33 million in 2022. While financial contributions increased, WFP also invested in exploring impact partnerships with private actors, such as advocacy and technical expertise, and rallying the private sector against zero-hunger. For example, partnerships with the International Chamber of Commerce and other partners were brokered, including the first-ever CEO roundtable to discuss hunger issues convened in Cameroon. A regional business development plan and a prospect pipeline were drafted to support engagement efforts going forward. A cause-related campaign was launched through WFP's Share the meal application to support the coastal countries.

International Financial Institutions (IFIs): WFP continued building strong partnerships with IFIs to best support governments in advancing their national development goals. Areas of thematic collaboration included social protection, food assistance, nutrition, school meals, assessments, and service provision such as procuring commodities. In total, USD 103 million were received from governments with IFIs as source donors. Joint missions with government and IFI representatives to project sites enabled a better understanding of WFP's activities in the country and initiated important discussions around creating stronger synergies of interventions.

Regional bodies: As part of its approach to further its engagement with West African regional organizations, WFP strengthened its collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) through both a strategic and technical-level dialogue, marked by the formulation of a joint action plan with a focus on monitoring and evaluation, supply chain, and joint external advocacy among other areas of collaboration. Another key milestone is the issuance of a joint FAO/WFP/ECOWAS assessment of the risks and impact of the Ukraine crisis on the ECOWAS region's agricultural production. This engagement will be further formalised in the coming year and marks the renewal of a

long-standing partnership that facilitated the deployment of emergency operations in the region over the past years. Regarding other regional organizations, including the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), RBD will seek to improve its outreach and positioning while identifying relevant programmatic entry points with the regional development banks, namely the Ecowas Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and the West African Development Bank (BOAD).

Evaluations, innovations, challenges, and lessons learned

As assistance needs increased sharply worldwide, competition over resources remains fierce. West Africa has been suffering from a relative attention deficit despite its dramatic decline in security and food security. WFP will continue advocating for support to the vulnerable people in the region.



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SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

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