Context analysis – the “perfect storm”

Exponential demographic growth, extreme poverty and lack of basic services are exacerbated by the 3Cs:

- Climate change
- Conflict
- COVID-19
Of the 20 contexts with the potential for acute food insecurity to deteriorate further, seven countries are in the West Africa region:

- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
Growing levels of food insecurity in the region

Central Sahel

Lake Chad Basin

Central African Republic
The highest levels of food insecurity (Phase 4/5) are related to conflict.

Central Sahel

Lake Chad Basin

Central African Republic

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
How did we respond to the crisis?

- **Scaled up to reach 13 million people** up to end Q3 2020 from 10.5 million in 2019

- **Cash-Based Transfers by 44% in 2020**

- **Scaled up Take Home Rations** while schools were closed

- **Majority of scale up in crisis response**
  - 6.3 million beneficiaries assisted with General Food Distributions (76% G5 Sahel)

- **1.1 million assisted with nutrition interventions** during the lean season
How are we responding? Resilience-building with communities

- Over 1.7 million people in 1,500 villages supported through integrated resilience
- 47,000 hectares (ha) land rehabilitated across the G5 Sahel region
- 920,000 beneficiaries of assets creation livelihoods created; production improved
- 340,000 children at school benefitted from nutritious school meals
- 650,000 children and women malnutrition treatment/prevention support
- 25,000 people trained smallholder farmers; cooperating partners; government staff; community committees
What are we doing differently? Learnings from COVID-19 response

- Go further to build resilience and address root causes - crisis response is not enough
- Greater emphasis on systems building to address root causes

How?
- Greater focus on national social protection systems strengthening
- Urban programming given growing vulnerabilities in urban contexts
- Regional approaches
Working more in partnership with others - some examples

- **ECOWAS & CILSS** - Data collection and analysis; response coordination
- **UNICEF** - Enhanced partnership; Joint programme on Adaptive Social Protection in Central Sahel
- **Rome-based agencies** - Emergency and rural development in Sahel in response to COVID-19, Conflicts & Climate Change
- **UN Habitat** - address food security and nutrition in areas of rapid urbanization
Moving forward

- **Ramp-up resilience-building** with communities
- **Seek more resources for root causes** – E.g. national social protection systems
- **Work across the nexus** – look for development and peace opportunities even in humanitarian contexts
- **Advocacy on key issues** – e.g. access, national system strengthening
Thank you!