



# Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 18-May-2022 | Report No: PIDA33655

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Western and Central Africa	Project ID P178132	Project Name West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) - Phase 2	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region Western and Central Africa	Estimated Appraisal Date 09-May-2022	Estimated Board Date 19-Jul-2022	Practice Area (Lead) Agriculture and Food
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Ghana, Republic of Chad, Republic of Sierra Leone	Implementing Agency Ministry of Agriculture - Sierra Leone, Ministry of Agriculture - Chad, Ministry of Food and Agriculture - Ghana	

## Proposed Development Objective(s)

To increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in participating countries.

## Components

Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention (Including Locust) and Management Sustainability and Adaptive Capacity of the Food System's Productive Base  
Regional Food Market Integration and Trade  
Contingent Emergency Response (CERC)  
Project Management

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)****SUMMARY**

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	315.00
<b>Total Financing</b>	315.00
<b>of which IBRD/IDA</b>	315.00
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00

**DETAILS**



**World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	315.00
IDA Credit	180.00
IDA Grant	135.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification

**Substantial**

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

This Project Information Document (PID) covers Phase II of the West Africa Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) which includes three countries: Republic of Chad, the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Sierra Leone. Phase I of this Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) was approved by the World Bank’s Executive Directors on November 18th, 2021, with Project code P172769 and Project Appraisal Document (PAD) report number PAD4173.

**B. Introduction and Context**



## Regional Context

- 1. West Africa is one of the world's most vulnerable regions due to its climatic, institutional, livelihood, social, economic, and environmental context.** This region is home to more than 360 million inhabitants, of whom 55 percent live in rural areas and depend on natural resources for their socio-economic development. Approximately 43 percent of West Africans live below the international poverty line, and most countries in the region are clustered at the very bottom of the human development rankings. Agriculture contributes 29 percent of the region's gross domestic product and is the principal livelihood for more than 60 percent of West Africans. Because the region is highly exposed to major climate, agricultural, and market risks, the performance of agriculture has historically been volatile, unleashing more frequent and worsening food crises. Phase II countries, Chad, Sierra Leone, and Ghana experience dramatic vulnerability. Poverty rates in each country are high, further constraining farmer resilience: in Chad 42 percent of the population lives below the international poverty line, in Sierra Leone it is 43 percent and in Ghana 25.5 percent. All three Phase II countries are sensitive to weather and price shocks, with agriculture primarily rain-fed and subject to erratic weather changes.
- 2. The increased incidence of conflict and fragility threatens human security in West Africa.** The past five years have been the most violent on record in West Africa, with over 12,000 conflict events and 50,000 fatalities, largely as a result of conflict in the central Sahel and the Lake Chad region. The 2019 World Bank Sahel Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment highlighted climate change as a key exacerbating factor of conflict, heightening risk factors associated with marginalization and exclusion of communities from access to basic services, justice and state representation at the local level. Together, these trends pose significant risks to human security. Moreover, in a context of rising armed conflict- itself linked to competition over natural resources - it could well contribute to rising levels of violence by, inter alia, increasing poverty, disrupting informal mechanisms that govern the sharing of scarce and common resources, and fueling grievances against governments and other groups.
- 3. Perpetual "shock-recovery-shock" cycles have become the norm across the region and seriously threaten its sustainable development.** Multiple shocks, driven by climate change and environmental degradation, markets, conflict and the implications of the COVID-19-induced health crisis, and most recently the war in Ukraine, have been costly for human welfare, making food scarcer and more expensive and raising malnutrition and food insecurity. The prevalence of undernourishment in West Africa increased continuously from 2010 and is at its record high with 75.2 million undernourished people (18.7 percent of the population) in Western Africa in 2020. In just one year from 2019 to 2020, it increased by 5.8 percentage points corresponding to 24.6 million additional people, the highest increase in undernourishment world-wide. Food insecurity increased equally dramatically. West Africa is currently in its third consecutive year of food security crisis with 16.7 million people in urgent need of food assistance in 2020 and 27.1 million people in 2021. From June to August 2022, 33.4 million people are projected to be in crisis or worse.

## Sectoral and Institutional Context

- 4. Vulnerability has spread throughout the region as food system productivity has grown more slowly than the population, leading to a reduction in per capita food availability.** The population is growing at close to 3 percent per year and is projected to double to approximately 800 million people by 2050. While agriculture productivity grew quickly during the mid-1980s to 2010 and the supply of locally produced food increased from 1,700 to 2,400 kilocalories per person per day, the agricultural productivity growth has slowed to an average of 2 percent in recent years. Yield gaps between West Africa and other regions remain large. In Sierra Leone for example, yields of main crops are estimated to be about a third of their potential productivity levels, making the country unable to meet



the local demand of its principal staple food (rice). Similarly, Ghana's average cereal yield is only about a quarter of the potential yield. As a result, Ghana remains a significant importer of ready-to-consume commodities such as rice. The agricultural output of Chad is highly volatile (standard deviation of six percentage points around the mean, compared to only 0.8 percentage points for Sub-Saharan Africa) oscillating widely between positive and negative growth.

5. **Multiple interacting factors are responsible for West Africa's worsening per capita calorie availability and deepening food insecurity.** They include (a) climate change; (b) environmental degradation, driven by population growth and intensifying competition over natural resources; (c) increasing incidence and severity of conflict and state fragility; (d) poor regional trade integration; (e) inefficiency of public expenditure (f) gender gaps; and (g) exogenous crises, like the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the war in Ukraine.
6. **Climate change and variability is reducing crop yields and livestock productivity.** West Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change. Its readiness to improve its resilience against the impact of climate change, seen among others in more frequent extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, is very limited. In the medium term, regional climate models consistently predict fewer days of rainfall and shorter wet spells in over 70 percent of the region, coupled with a higher intensity of rainfall on wet days. The availability of water for food production and other uses is projected to decrease, and competition for resources between different population groups may intensify. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that crop growing periods will shrink on average by 20 percent by 2050 in the absence of climate change adaptation, leading to a 40 percent drop in cereal yields.
7. **The natural resource base (water, land, and vegetation) needed for food production is deteriorating rapidly as agriculture expands across landscapes with little attention to sustainability. Land cover has changed significantly over the last fifty years.** Villages and cities today cover 140 percent of the area they occupied in 1975. While the area covered by crops doubled between 1975 and 2013, vast areas of forest, savanna, and woodland were lost or fragmented. More than one-third of the region's dense forest cover has been cleared since 1975 for farms and settlements. In savanna and steppe landscapes, bare sandy areas increased by 47 percent as drought and unsustainable land-use practices degraded vegetative cover. Soil erosion is widespread in the region, mainly caused by recurring droughts, deforestation, and unsustainable agricultural practices such as intensive tillage.
8. **The increased incidence of conflict and fragility in West Africa interacts with the food insecurity challenge in manifold and complex ways.** Many conflicts occur in rural areas and target agricultural assets (infrastructure, ground and surface water, crops, livestock), so the economic impacts on the agricultural sector, particularly on women farmers and women herders, are disproportionately large. Security responses to conflict often restrict movement, preventing farmers from accessing farmland and rangeland and from using traditional mechanisms to cope with climate variability, such as seasonal and circular migration and inter-state border crossings.
9. **The region's poorly integrated food markets cannot accommodate large yearly fluctuations in food crop production by directing surplus food to areas with shortages.** Commodities imported from outside the region account for about 80–90 percent of all food traded by volume in West Africa, with intraregional trade stagnating for several decades at 10–20 percent. Most intraregional food trade is informal and unrecorded, constraining regional value chain integration. Intraregional trade is hindered by limits on the free movement of goods posed by high transaction costs as well as physical, infrastructural, and political barriers. As a result, food markets are fragmented. They cannot accommodate the large variations in local food production that occur from one year to the next by distributing food from surplus to deficit areas across the region.



- 10. **Rising public funding for agriculture has not sustainably raised yields, as large shares of public funds are spent on ineffective subsidies instead of public goods such as agricultural research.** A large share of agriculture-specific expenditure is used for input subsidies. While subsidies are popular among policymakers, their effectiveness in sustainably raising agricultural productivity and reducing poverty is limited for agronomic reasons and because of large inefficiencies in implementing support schemes. Higher returns to poverty alleviation and greater resilience to climate change could result from a shift in spending to infrastructure, agricultural research and development and improved extension services.
- 11. **Major inequalities persist between women and men in terms of access to resources that can improve their living conditions through agriculture—particularly access to land and equipment, credit, markets, and advisory and support services.** Over the past 15 years, women have assumed a growing share of responsibility for agriculture as men and young people have joined the rural exodus. This trend is changing traditional gender roles as women become increasingly involved in farm management, but several factors continue to undermine women’s participation in the economy, including insufficient access to productive resources; low human capital (inadequate technical education); limited access to markets; a legal framework that renders women dependent on their spouses to access modern financial services; and substantial contributions to the reproductive sphere of their households.
- 12. **The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war in Ukraine have further strained the food system.** The economy of Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to have contracted by 2.0 percent in 2020, the lower bound of what had been anticipated. However, full economic recovery still hinges on countries deepening reforms that create jobs, encourage investments, and enhance competitiveness. The ongoing war in Ukraine is yet another shock that further exacerbates food insecurity in West Africa by driving up global food prices.

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

To increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in participating countries.

#### Key Results

Indicator	Baseline - Total Phase II	End target – Per Country			End target - Total Phase II
		Chad	Ghana	Sierra Leone	
Program beneficiaries (number and percentage of female beneficiaries)	0	150,000 (40% women)	300,000 (40% women)	182,000 (40% women)	632,000 (40% women)
Reduction of food insecure people in program targeted areas (percentage)	0	25	25	25	25
Food system actors accessing hydro and agrometeorological advisory services (number and percentage of female beneficiaries)	0	75,000 (40% women)	211,200 (40% women)	120,000 (40% women)	406,200 (40% women)

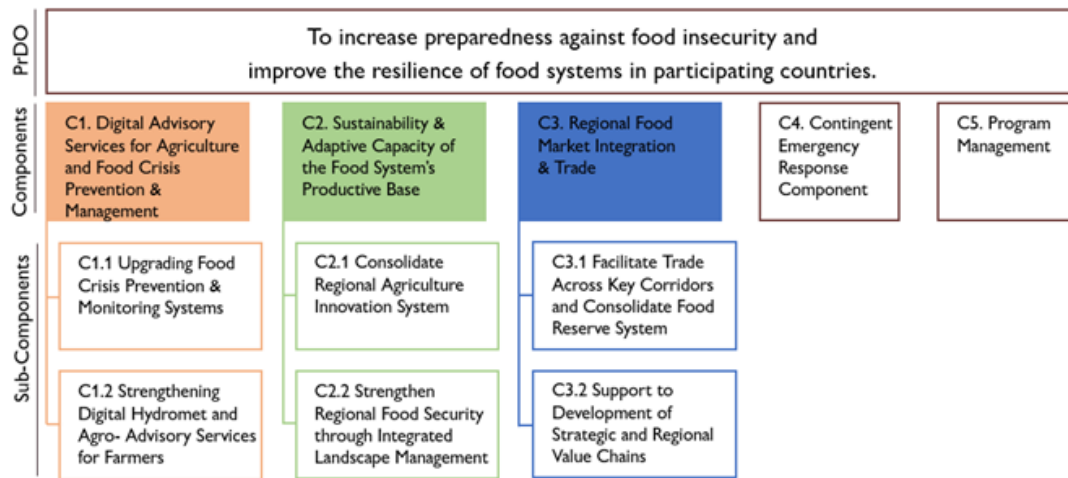


Producers adopting CSA technologies and services (number and percentage of female beneficiaries)	0	80,000 (40% women)	240,000 (40% women)	160,000 (40% women)	480,000 (40% women)
Surface area under integrated landscape management practices (ha)	0	4,000	4,850	3,000	11,850
Share of intra-regionally traded production in selected value chains (percentage)	Tbd	30	30	30	30

**D. Project Description**

13. **The components for Phase II countries will remain the same as the Board Approved Phase I design. These are:** (i) Strengthening Digital Advisory Services for Regional Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention and Management; (ii) Sustainability and Adaptive Capacity of the Food System’s Productive Base; (iii) Regional Food Market Integration and Trade; (iv) Contingency Emergency Response Component; and (v) Program Management. The MPA structure provides a flexible framework of potential activities that countries can choose to pursue, and the design balances the need for participating countries to make investments that activate regional mechanisms with the need of participating countries for interventions tailored to their circumstances. Country level design processes and consultations were carried out in Chad, Ghana and Sierra Leone to adapt the MPA structure to country needs. A summary of the components is included below.

**Figure 1: Components and subcomponents of the West Africa Food System Resilience Program**



**COMPONENT 1: DIGITAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD CRISIS PREVENTION**

**Subcomponent 1.1: Upgrading Food Crisis Prevention and Monitoring Systems.** This subcomponent aims to transform national food security and agriculture information systems in order to support risk management decision-making. It includes specific investments designed to:

- (a) Improve national capacity to deliver reliable information services on vulnerability, nutrition, and food security.



- (b) Reorganize and improve national pest and disease monitoring and management mechanisms.
- (c) Strengthen regional collaboration for food crisis prevention through harmonized approaches and the promotion of collaborative public and private sector partnerships.

**Subcomponent 1.2: Strengthening Digital Hydromet and Agro-Advisory Services for Farmers.** This subcomponent aims to develop new services as well as improve existing ones that increase the quality, accessibility, and use of impact-based and location-specific weather, climate, and hydrological (hydromet) information, and its application to agriculture (agromet) to provide tailored and advisory services of various kinds. Investments under this subcomponent seek to:

- (a) Improve the production of climate, hydromet, agromet, and impact-based information for use by decision-makers, farmers, pastoralists, and other actors in the food system.
- (b) Support the timely delivery and use of essential agro-hydrometeorological information to key users, including farmers and pastoralists, with a focus on women, by investing in capacity building, developing multimodal communication channels, and supporting the co-development of a few select and high priority services by engaging users.
- (c) Strengthen the financial and institutional sustainability of regional and national institutions providing climate, hydromet, and agromet information through investments in: (i) the development of a strategy for long-term financial and institutional sustainability; (ii) coordination events between public, private, and academic sectors to create a policy environment conducive to collaboration; (iii) software and capacity building for open access to relevant hydrological and meteorological data and basic services; and (iv) state-of-the-art technologies and new business models.

## **COMPONENT 2: SUSTAINABILITY AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE FOOD SYSTEM'S PRODUCTIVE BASE**

**Subcomponent 2.1: Consolidate Regional Agricultural Innovation Systems.** This subcomponent aims to consolidate the agricultural research and extension systems so that they can deliver adapted technological innovations for the region's food systems. This subcomponent will support investments to:

- (a) Strengthen National and Regional Research Centers.
- (b) Deepening and expanding regional R&D networking.
- (c) Modernize national extension services.
- (d) Promote technology access and exchange.

**Subcomponent 2.2: Strengthen Regional Food Security through Integrated Landscape Management (ILM):** This subcomponent will contribute to improved food security for rural households and build their resilience to climate variability by supporting Integrated Landscape Management (ILM), a long-term collaborative process with the objective to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner. This subcomponent will finance three groups of activities:





- (a) Establish participatory ILM plans and establish or strengthen a fully operational landscape committee in each FSRP Phase II country to supervise the design and implementation of the ILM plans and its supporting identified investments and subprojects.
- (b) Enhance the resilience of eco- and food systems in priority landscapes.
- (c) Secure resilient eco- and food systems beyond priority landscapes.

**COMPONENT 3: REGIONAL FOOD MARKET INTEGRATION AND TRADE:**

**Subcomponent 3.1: Facilitate Trade Across Key Corridors and Consolidate Food Reserve System.** Under this subcomponent, FSRP will support the preparation and implementation of regional policies and regulations to increase regional flows of agricultural goods and inputs. This subcomponent will provide financing to:

- (a) National implementation of an ECOWAS Agricultural Trade and Market Scorecard Mechanism.
- (b) Stimulate Agricultural Regional Trade Policy Harmonization on Critical Food System Resilience Issues.
- (c) Improve Regional Food Security Reserve Performance.

**Subcomponent 3.2: Support the Development of Strategic and Regional Value Chains.** This subcomponent aims to improve food and nutrition security for smallholders by supporting up to three priority value chains per participating country, focusing on backward and forward segments of the value chains, with tangible positive impacts on regional market integration, food security, nutrition, reduced food loss and waste and climate change adaptation. Under this subcomponent, FSRP will finance interventions to:

- (a) Strengthen value chain organization and financing.
- (b) Support agricultural competitiveness and market access infrastructure.
- (c) Strengthen multi-stakeholder coordination and promote a private sector enabling environment.

**COMPONENT 4: CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPONENT.** Component 4 is a mechanism for financing eligible expenditures in the event of an emergency precipitated by a natural disaster.

**COMPONENT 5: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT** This component will finance all aspects of project management including equipment and materials, compliance with fiduciary, procurement and safeguards (environmental and social) requirements, monitoring and evaluation a full impact assessment with quasi-experimental design, knowledge management and communication.

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No



Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

14. The activities to be financed by the Program are expected to have limited environmental and social impacts. Most of them are small-scale and intended to improve social cohesion and inclusion as well as support sustainable livelihoods in targeted areas. However, these activities may generate environmental and social risks related to irrigation, watershed management, water and sanitation infrastructure, value-chain development, labor risks (child and forced labor), physical and/or economic displacement, conflict, damage to personal property, labor influx risk including community health and safety in the form of potential SEA/SH and transmission of communicable diseases (such as COVID-19 and STDs/STIs).
15. As the scope and exact sites of the infrastructure works and livelihood activities are not yet defined (except for Ghana which has some sites known in irrigation areas for which a PPA is being mobilized to fund the preparation of ESIA/RAPs), a framework approach has been adopted to provide guidance on the preparation of the various instruments. This includes the preparation by each country of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will guide the preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/ Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs) for the subprojects.
16. All Following Bank approval, all Borrowers prepared and disclosed their ESMFs which includes a SEA/SH Risk Mitigation and Response Action Plan. During implementation, as more information and preliminary designs become available, specific Environmental Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for each subproject and site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), including specific SEA/SH Risk Mitigation and Response Action Plans based on the general plan in the ESMFs, will be prepared prior to the start of activities. Following these assessments, any additional instruments required for instance, a Construction Site Security Plan, Cultural Heritage Management Plan, Guidance on Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS), Conflict or Security Risk Management Plan, and Cultural and Livelihoods Impact Assessments are included in the prepared drafts of the Environmental and Social Commitment Plans (ESCP). In Chad, security risk assessment has been prepared in included in the ESMF and was used to inform project design and implementation support.
17. The Recipients, with Bank support, have prepared drafts ESCPs which will be discussed during negotiations and subsequently disclosed. The ESCPs outline responsibilities for managing SEA/SH and conflict risks. Program activities such as the development of drainage systems and construction of access roads and landfills are expected to have cumulative impacts. The Borrowers supervision capacity will be strengthened throughout implementation by including an environment, social, and GBV consultant in each PIU.
18. These ESMFs incorporate the general and sector-specific environmental, health and safety guidelines (EHSGs), labor management procedures, SEA/SH mitigation, security management as well as proposed alternatives to direct supervision that will be required in case of restricted access to the project areas. The ESMPs will clearly define mitigation and management measures, including roles and responsibilities, schedule, costs, implementation procedures and incident reporting that are specific to each subproject.
19. In addition to ESMFs, Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPMPs) have been prepared and provide a detailed review of common pests which may be relevant to the program, a review of applicable pest management options and finally a management plan presenting recommendations on pest management under the project.



20. In Ghana, the project proposes to continue and complete the rehabilitation of the Kpong Irrigation Scheme (KIS) which was started by the recently closed Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project (GCAP). The KIS is a gravity irrigation scheme which is supplied by the Kpong dam a dual-purpose dam for electricity generation and irrigation. The Kpong dam has a satisfactory safety program in place including international panel of dam safety experts who regularly assess its safety performance. The project will rely on the recent dam safety report to satisfy the requirements of a dam safety assessment (DSA) as described in paragraph 10 of Annex 1 (ESS4). There are other gravity irrigation schemes which are proposed for rehabilitation at various project areas. However, the dimensions of their water reservoirs are not known at this stage. The project proposes to first conduct feasibility studies to establish the dimensions of these reservoirs/dams and following the approval of the design for the irrigation schemes, and related ESIA/ESMPs to be developed, if needed, a Dam Safety Assessment (DSA) will be undertaken during implementation before the start of project activities.
21. Component 4 focuses on a contingency emergency response component (CERC). The request for the activation of the CERC shall come from the Borrower with a prior non-objection from the Association. In the event of a crisis leading to the activation of the CERC, the Borrower shall prepare the necessary instruments and measures before undertaking emergency response activities, in order to ensure compliance with the Project's E&S requirements. An Addendum CERC-ESMF will be prepared to cover CERC-related measures (including a screening mechanism).
22. Citizen engagement and grievance mechanisms are embedded in the project design and reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). To address gender gaps and enhance social inclusion in this regional program, specific gender actions are embedded in all project components and sub-components. A detailed Gender Action Plan (GAP) will be developed which identifies the concrete gender actions that will be implemented, monitored and budgeted for in each country and each institution's activity plans. Countries in West Africa are progressively narrowing gender gaps for women farmers in areas such as food insecurity and the uptake of improved agricultural practices and poverty rates, but progress is still limited and other areas show persistent gaps, in particular in the ownership of land and equipment, access to labor, quality inputs, finance and markets. The planned actions of the project aim to consolidate and further the progress made and address the barriers preventing women farmers' contributions to sustainable livelihoods and the quality of nutrition in their communities.
23. The ESMFs of the regional institutions (the Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), have been prepared and disclosed under the first phase of this Program and validated by the Bank. These remain valid for this second phase as the institutional arrangements and components and activities remain unchanged.

## **E. Implementation**

### Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

24. At the regional level, all project activities will be overseen by the Regional Steering Committee under the leadership of Economic Community of West African States and its corresponding coordination units, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (for Component 1) and West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research (for Component 2). On the national level, the project activities will be overseen by Project Implementation Units.



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**APPROVAL**

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