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LA BANQUE MONDIALE
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FSRP
West Africa Food System Resilience Program

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Recruitment of a consultant to analyse changes in the food and nutrition situation of populations and the determining factors over the last 10 years in the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS areas

October 2024

1. Background and justification

The region's economic situation

West Africa will have more than 435.2 million inhabitants in 2023, 55% of whom will live in rural areas. Around 32.47% of this population will be living on less than USD 2.15 a day in 2023, which represents 141.32 million people living in extreme poverty in the region (ECA-UN[1] , 2023a). The region's economy remains dominated by the primary sector, particularly agriculture, which accounts for 22.2% of GDP (UNECA, 2023b), although there are major disparities between countries. Agriculture will provide between 22% and 73% of employment depending on the country in the region in 2021 (FAO, 2023[2]). Yet the region is repeatedly faced with situations of food and nutritional insecurity affecting a large proportion of its population. The agricultural sector is characterised by low productivity, linked to the low intensity of production systems, limited access to markets and inadequate infrastructure.

Food and nutrition situation in the ECOWAS and CILSS regions

The food and nutrition situation in the ECOWAS and CILSS region is increasingly worrying. Since the first analyses of the Harmonised Framework (HF) in 2014, the number of people facing high levels of acute food and nutrition insecurity in the region has been rising steadily, with the exception of 2018. Between 2020 and 2024, the number of food-insecure people increased significantly, from around 22.1 million (6% of the population analysed) to 35.3 million in March 2024, or 9% of the population analysed (FSIN, 2024a, p.16[3]). The same analyses by the Harmonised Framework indicate that if appropriate measures are not taken, this figure could rise to 49.53 million in the lean season of 2024, including 31.8 million in Nigeria, 3.4 million in Niger, 3.3 million in Chad, 2.7 million in Burkina Faso, 1.6 million in Sierra Leone, 1.3 million in Mali and around 1 million in Ghana. Of these people, 2.4 million are in emergency situations in the region (Phase 4) and more than 2,500 people living in the Ménaka region of Mali could face a disaster situation (Phase 5). However, it should be noted that the increase in the number of food-insecure people is strongly correlated with the number of people analysed per year. For example, the number of people analysed rose from 299.1 million in 2020 to 438.7 million in 2024, representing a 47% increase in the population analysed.

The nutritional situation remains worrying, with several critical areas, notably in the Liptako Gourma region, and in the Lake Chad Basin region, including northern Nigeria, where global acute malnutrition exceeds the 10% alert threshold and has reached 20% or more in several areas of Chad (CILSS, 2024a[4]). It is important to note that the deterioration in the food situation resulting from economic difficulties at household level could constitute a risk of continued exacerbation of the nutritional situation.

The main factors in the food and nutrition crisis

Several factors are behind the apparent deterioration in the food and nutrition situation in the West Africa and Sahel region. They include both structural and cyclical phenomena, but they are increasingly interrelated. They are the result of various endogenous shocks (climate change and disruptions to cropping and production systems, pest attacks, conflicts and insecurity, household poverty) and exogenous shocks (economic shocks, imperfections in international markets and the transmission of their effects to national and regional markets) which are undermining production systems, incomes and people's living conditions, and increasing the vulnerability of a growing fringe of the population in both rural and urban areas. The main factors regularly highlighted are :

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[1] United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), 2023. Socio-economic profile of West Africa. ECA/SRO-WA/ICSOE/26/2; October 2023.

[2] FAO. 2023. World Food and Agriculture - Statistical Yearbook 2023. Rome. [Online] [Accessed 17 June 2024] https://www.fao.org/documents/card/ en ?détails=cc8166en

[3] FSIN, 2024, p.16. Regional report 2024 on food and nutritional security in the Sahel and West Africa.

[4] CILSS. 2024. Harmonised Framework. Results of the analysis of acute food and nutrition insecurity current in March-May 2024 and projected in June-August 2024. March 2024 [Online] [Accessed 8 April 2024] https://www. ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/d ocs/ch/FICHE_COMMUNICATION_-_MARS_2024_VF. pd

Conflict and insecurity have led to massive internal and cross-border displacement, disrupted traditional agricultural and pastoral practices, as well as the functioning of markets and trade, and hampered the distribution of humanitarian aid. This situation reveals the interconnected nature of the food and nutrition crises in these regions (CILSS, 2024b). The situation has led to a gradual increase in regional displacement levels, with 8.4 million forcibly displaced people in 16 countries in the first quarter of 2024. The countries most affected are those of the Lake Chad Basin, north-west and north-central Nigeria, the tri-border area of the central Sahel and spreading northwards to coastal countries (UNHCR, 2024[5] ; IOM, 2024[6]).

Economic shocks: the economic inability of poor households to access food is the corollary of a decline in purchasing power, exacerbated by high inflation and weakened economic activity. These economic challenges have been compounded by the lingering effects of COVID-19, economic and political sanctions in some countries in the region. This has led to disruptions in the functioning of markets, adding inflationary pressure on food prices and the cost of humanitarian assistance. Cereal price levels in Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone are clearly 100 to 200% higher than the average for the last 5 years. In several markets in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad and Liberia, price rises of more than 50% have been observed (PREGEC, September 2024[7]).

Extreme climatic phenomena: every year, climatic crises affect populations, with episodes of severe flooding, drought, fires, epidemics and disease. During the 2024/25 agricultural season, torrential rains caused significant loss of life and material damage in the Sahel (Niger, Chad, Senegal) and low rainfall in the Gulf of Guinea countries (Ghana, Togo), (PREGEC, September 2024[8])... These extreme climatic phenomena have also affected the availability of pastoral resources, leading to an early start to the pastoral lean season for the 2024/2025 agricultural season.

The intensification of conflict and insecurity, the impact of economic shocks and the effects of extreme climatic phenomena continue to cause food insecurity and malnutrition. These interdependent factors exacerbate the fragility of food systems, disrupt the socio-economic fabric and lead to regional population displacements.

Methods for monitoring and analysing food and nutritional security

Methods for analysing and monitoring food and nutritional security have evolved in recent years. Since the late 1980s, methods for monitoring and assessing the food situation have been based on monitoring the agricultural season and cereal balances. Since 2010, the Harmonised Framework (HF) has become a reference tool for measuring the level of food insecurity in West Africa, with a move towards a more holistic method. This tool is an adaptation of the international IPC method (integrated food security phase classification) and combines information on food security, nutrition and livelihoods for West Africa. It can be used to analyse the current situation and also to project the situation six months ahead, by proposing scenarios. This analysis makes it possible to classify administrative areas into five food insecurity classes, mapped using a colour chart ranging from green to dark red. Version 3.0 was adopted by the CH steering committee in March 2023, demonstrating a determination to perform well and to implement quality standards, as well as their respect by the various stakeholders. However, the CH process still presents a number of challenges, relating in particular to the availability and quality of the data used for analysis (existence and regular operation of information systems, timely conduct of

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5 UNHCR. 2024. Final report. SMART/SENS nutritional surveys in 25 refugee camps and 6 host village strata (Sudanese, Central African, Nigerian and Cameroonian refugees). March 2024. Unpublished report. World Bank. 2023. Western and Central Africa. October 2023. [Online] [Accessed on 17 January 2024] https://www. worldbank.org/en/region/afr/western-and-central-africa

6 IOM. 2024. Displacement Tracking Matrix. Situation in Central Sahel, Liptako Gourma and coastal countries. February 2024. [Online] [Accessed 8 April 2024] https:// dtm.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1461/files/reports/ LIPTAKO%20GOURMA%20-%20December%202023%20 %28EN%29.pdf

7 Opinion of the regional consultation meeting on agricultural and food prospects in the Sahel and West Africa, Niamey, Niger, September 2024

8 Opinion of the regional consultation meeting on agricultural and food prospects in the Sahel and West Africa, Niamey, Niger, September 2024

surveys, difficulties of access to insecure areas), technical consensus-building, convergence of evidence, population estimates and the timetable for CH analyses.
The results of the CH's analyses are widely communicated and disseminated through the various national, regional and international consultation frameworks. These results are primarily targeted at governments to help them make better decisions in response to acute food and nutrition crises (preparation of National Response Plans) and to implement actions to strengthen resilience. In addition, the CH is the arbitration tool for triggering the Regional Food Security Reserve (RRSA) and helps decision-making for the WAEMU High Level Committee on Food and Nutrition Security (CHSAN).

Interest of the study on the evolution of food and nutritional security in the region
In countries with high levels of food and nutrition insecurity (geographical coverage), severe shocks can plunge the majority of the population into recurring food and nutrition crises. However, the funding required to cover countries' needs in the event of serious events could reach sums for which humanitarian aid may prove insufficient. To improve the prevention and management of agricultural and food risks in West Africa, quantitative studies were carried out in 6 West African and Sahelian countries in 2020 by the World Bank (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo) to identify various options for improving food and nutrition security in these countries.

In addition, with the aim of improving preparedness for food insecurity, a major regional investment project, the Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP), was launched in 2021 and is funded by the World Bank. It is co-led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), and includes four countries, namely Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Togo in the first phase, the three countries of Chad, Ghana and Sierra Leone in the second phase and Senegal in the third phase of the programme. To implement this programme, the World Bank is supporting the strengthening of the ECOWAS Regional Food Security Storage Strategy, a system of strategic physical and financial food reserves operating at local, national and regional levels. The regional reserve is made up of one third physical stocks to guarantee rapid supply and two thirds financial capital to reduce costs and diversify food assistance. To this end, component 3.1 of the PRSF, financed by the Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF), aims to provide the Regional Reserve with a safety net that can be triggered in the event of major food and nutrition security crises.

In the light of all this, it seems important to ask the following question: "What is keeping the region in such a situation of food insecurity and malnutrition, and what response mechanisms are being put in place?
It is with this in mind that the present study was initiated with a view to carrying out a diachronic analysis of food and nutritional insecurity in the region, determining the main factors of agricultural risk and food and nutritional insecurity that have prevailed in the region over the last ten (10) years, analysing and highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the tools used to analyse food and nutritional security and, finally, analysing the mechanisms for preventing and managing agricultural and food risks in the region.

II. Aims of the study

The overall aim of the study is to analyse trends in short-term food insecurity[9] over the last 10 years in the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS regions, to identify the underlying factors that explain these trends and to analyse the mechanisms for preventing and managing agricultural and food risks.

[9] Refers to acute food insecurity.

Specifically, this will involve :

- Identify, analyse, prioritise and map the main risks/determinants of cyclical food and nutrition insecurity in the region over the last ten years;
- Analyse changes in the main performance indicators and trends in short-term food insecurity over the last decade ;
- Identify the underlying factors that explain the observed trend in the food and nutrition situation in the region;
- Analyse and highlight the strengths and weaknesses of food and nutrition security analysis tools in the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS areas and their ability to distinguish between populations facing one-off shocks and populations chronically in crisis;
- Identify and analyse agricultural and food risk prevention and management mechanisms and their effectiveness in the region;
- To formulate specific recommendations for improving the capacity and efficiency of the prevention and management of short-term food and nutrition crises in the region.

III. Expected results and activities

The study will be carried out in the 17 countries of the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS zones, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, plus Chad and Mauritania. To this end, the analyses of developments in the SAN in the region will focus on the situation at national and regional level.

The following results are expected:

1. The main food and nutritional safety risks linked to production, the market and the environment are identified, analysed, prioritised and mapped. This will involve :

- The evolution of four SAN components (Availability, Accessibility, Usability and Stability) over the last 10 years;
- The main food and nutritional security risks linked with the four components of the SAN (Availability, Accessibility, Utilisation and Stability) and other cross-cutting aspects linked to food and nutritional security.

2. Changes in the main food security performance indicators and trends in short-term food insecurity over the last decade are analysed:

- Changes in food consumption (Food Consumption Score and Food Diversity Score) in the 17 ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS countries;
- Changes in the food coping strategies index (rCSI) and the livelihoods-based coping strategies index (ISAME);
- Changes in the prevalence of malnutrition (acute and chronic) ;
- Changes in the areas and numbers of people suffering from food and nutritional insecurity over the last 10 years.

3. The underlying factors that explain the observed trend in the food and nutrition situation in the region are as follows;

4. The strengths and weaknesses of SAN analysis tools in the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS areas were highlighted and analysed:

- Identify SAN analysis tools in the ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS areas;
- Specify the robustness of each tool through a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats);

- Assess the implications of the weaknesses of these tools (Harmonised Framework) on the diagnosis of the food and nutrition situation, the National Response Plans (NRPs) and the calibration of the Regional Food Security Reserve (RRSA).

5. The mechanisms put in place by countries and the region to prevent and manage agricultural and food crises have been identified:
   - Risk mitigation practices by countries and the region ;
   - Risk transfer mechanisms put in place by countries and the region ;
   - Mechanism put in place by countries and the region to deal with risks related to production, the market and the enabling environment.

6. Specific recommendations on the prevention and management of short-term food and nutrition crises in the region are formulated.

IV. Organisation of the study and deliverables

4.1. Steering the process

The study will be conducted by an individual Consultant under the supervision of the Regional Coordination Unit of the FSRP and the Regional Food Security Reserve Division of the ARAA with close involvement of UEMOA and CILSS. The stakeholders are experienced in the field of SAN, assessment, prevention and management of agricultural and food crises in West Africa.

4.2 Data collection

Data will be collected using a qualitative approach (documentary research, interviews with resource persons, consultation of certain websites) and a quantitative approach (collection of secondary data).
The qualitative method will involve a documentary review of current food and nutrition security (data from the Harmonised Framework and assessment of responses), agricultural and food risks, and political and trade measures taken by governments, regional authorities and partners in the region in response to food crises. Data from platforms dedicated to security crises and monitoring short-term food and nutrition security will also be made available (WFP, FAO, SWAC/OECD Secretariat, RBM, ROPPA, RESIMOA, RECAO, etc.). Interviews will also be organised with resource persons (local relays of producers' organisations, NGOs, local governments, etc.), national and regional experts (international NGOs, donors, WAEMU and ECOWAS experts) and national authorities.

The quantitative method of the study will explore the databases of the AGRHYMET/CILSS Regional Centre, namely data on agricultural and food risks, agricultural production, prices of basic foodstuffs, and data from analyses of the Harmonised Framework (HF) from 2014 to 2024. The CH is a consensual, multi-stakeholder analysis tool approved by governments, which gives rise to a classification of the scale and severity of acute food and nutrition insecurity based on a convergence of evidence and which are comparable in time and space. In particular, this means that the classification of phases in one country is equivalent to the classification of phases in another. Additional data collected by the Consultant at country level will be added to these databases.

4.3. Process support

The study will be conducted by an individual Consultant with the support of the Food and Nutritional Security Expert supporting the Regional Food Security Reserve, experts from the ARAA, the DADR and partners: i) inter-governmental organisations (CILSS); ii) professional agricultural organisations from civil society and the private sector (ROPPA); iii) technical and financial partners (World Bank, AFD; etc...); iv) regional programmes / information systems (FSIN, CRA, RESIMAO...).

4.4. Deliverables

As part of its assignment, the Consultant will provide the Regional Coordination of the PRSP with the following main deliverables:

- An inception report setting out the study methodology within 15 calendar days of the scoping meeting;
- An interim report of the study to be submitted for review (French and English Word document) 90 calendar days after validation of the inception report. This report, which will subsequently be validated at a regional workshop, includes all the expected results of the evaluation set out in section 3 of these ToR. It includes an executive summary in both languages (3-5 pages; French and English) incorporating the main findings/messages and recommendations, as well as a summary sheet for each country. These sheets will be appended to the study report.
- A final report of the study (Word document in French and English). It will be delivered in electronic format within 14 calendar days, after any contributions from the participants in the regional workshop and comments from the ECOWAS, CILSS, UEMOA and WB experts, including an executive summary (in French and English) incorporating the main findings/messages and recommendations, as well as the summary sheets for the 17 countries.

V. Indicative timetable

The indicative timetable is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Provisional timetable.

Main activities	2024				2025					
	Seven	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Finalisation of the Terms of Reference										
Consultant recruitment										
Orientation meeting with the Consultant										
Virtual workshop to validate the study methodology and data collection tools										
Data collection										
Data processing and analysis, followed by drafting of the study report										
Submission of the interim report										
Validation process for the provisional report, including the validation workshop for the study report										
Submission of the final report										
Presentation of conclusions and recommendations										

VI. Consultant profile

The study will be carried out by an individual Consultant with the following profile:

- **Qualifications:** Expert in food security, with at least a 5-year university degree in agriculture, agro-economics, socio-economics, food and nutrition security, rural development or another relevant field related to food and nutrition security**.**
- **General experience:** At least 10 years' professional experience in food and nutrition security analysis.

- **Specific experience :**
  - Be a CH trainer or have level 2 mastery of the Harmonised Framework analysis tool;
  - At least 5 years' experience in developing or analysing policy and strategic frameworks for the governance of food and nutrition security in ECOWAS and CILSS countries;
  - At least 5 years' experience working with key humanitarian and development partners in food security - including bilateral donors, UN agencies (FAO, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF), the NGO/CSO community - and/or data analysis systems, e.g. FEWS NET, IPC, FSNAU;
  - Knowledge or experience of gender analysis in relation to food and nutrition security;
  - Fluency in English and French.

VII. Length of assignment

The duration of the Consultant's services is 120 working days to be invoiced in total, spread over six (06) calendar months from the start date of the assignment.

VIII. Submission conditions

8.1-Interested consultants are invited to direct their attention to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", July 2016 ("Procurement Regulations"), which sets out the World Bank's policy on conflicts of interest.

8.2-Following the evaluation of the expressions of interest, one consultant will be selected following the "**Individual Consultant (IC)**" method as described in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016.

8.3-Expressions of interest must contain the following information:

- letter of expression of interest ;
- a detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- Legalised copies of diplomas and certificates or any other documents proving experience.

8.4-Expressions of interest must be submitted no later than **5 November 2024 at 17:00 GMT by downloading** at the following address **https://bit.ly/4eHoQys**

The expression of interest must be in the form of a single PDF file. The RAAA reserves the right not to consider applications that do not comply with the above submission requirements.

8.5-Interested consultants can obtain further information by writing to the following e-mail addresses: procurement@araa.org cc: ctienon@araa.org, Lbarnabo@araa.org, with the subject **"SCI26- Analyse Situation Alimentaire".**