

## Achieving Nutrition Security in the Sahel

## **Challenges and Potential Responses**

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## Pre-Existing Child Malnutrition Rates in Sahel countries



Data sources: Stunting from WHO Global datatabase on nutrition; GNI from World Development Indicators



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## **Child Nutrition Trends in Niger**



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## Inequities in Child Malnutrition



Niger Richest 37 53 Fourth Middle 54 Second 51 Poorest 54 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 Prevalence of Stunting Among Children Under 5 (%)

Source: DHS 2006 (figures based on the WHO Child Growth Standards).



## **Micronutrient Deficiencies**

#### Mali 90 80 70 Prevalence (%) 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 Preschool Children Pregnant Women Vitamin A Deficiency Anemia

Source: WHO Global Prevalence of Vitamin A Deficiency in Populations at Risk 1995-2005; WHO Worldwide Prevalence of Anemia 1993 ± 2005.



Source: 1995–2005 data from the WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition.

# The Emerging Crisis superimposed on the chronic malnutrition situation...



Determining the magnitude and acuteness of the crisis is difficult, as data is not harmonized and not always accurate and/or reliable.

Current Situation October – December 2011 Source: FEWSNET

Projections January – march 2012 Source: FEWSNET



#### Sahel is facing early stages of drought now Millions are likely to be affected by next year



Projections January – march 2012 Source: FEWSNET

#### Affected countries

Country	Affected Population
Mauritania	700,000 (>25% of population)
Mali	1.7 million (12% of population)
Niger	Assessment underway
Chad	N/ A

- Food insecurity situation is occurring due to low rainfall, poor harvests, high food prices, and a drop in remittances from migrants
- Recent wars in Libya and Cote d'Ivoire have resulted in spread of arms and returning fighters in Sahel, with potential effect on security
- The situation is expected to deteriorate from January 2012 onwards with a vulnerability peak during the February-April period



# World Bank Scoping missions to Mali and Mauritania to assess in-country situation

#### Preliminary findings from the missions

#### Mauritania

- Rainfall is below average and un-evenly distributed
- Crop production likely to be affected by 50 to 75%; Livestock value may drop by 75%; Price of cereal is up by 40%
- Weak institutional capacity to provide timely and efficient response
- Government has developed a response plan which includes food distribution, subsidized shops, community food stocks, child health and nutrition, and livestock support
- Out of \$157 m total budget for the plan, the Govt. is providing \$80 m
- Remaining \$77 m to be supported by international community

#### Mali

- Below average rainfall and higher food prices are causing food insecurity in the country
- Govt. has classified 104 communes under food insecurity stress, and 55 under economic stress (out of total 703 communes in the country)
- Crop production likely to be affected by 40%; Livestock value may drop by 50%; Price of cereal is up by 40%
- No state of emergency declared
- Government has developed a response plan which includes food and seeds distribution, livestock feeds and support
- Total budget is \$210 m







August 2011] // Map created by UNOCHA Dakar, 13 December 2011



### **Causes of Child Malnutrition**



from UNICEF 1990 and Ruel 2008



## Root causes in the Sahel?

 Climate change, population increase, dependence on natural resources, lack of economic alternatives, poor access to health and nutrition services and safety nets, poor governance, market failures and inequitable markets.



# Next steps?



#### A Three-pronged Approach: Learning from the Recent Horn of Africa Experience



Use 'nutrition security' as a key vulnerability indicator that helps bridge the humanitarian and development responses