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 database on nutrition; GNI from World Development Indicators
Pre-Existing Child Malnutrition Rates in Sahel countries

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Child Nutrition Trends in Niger

Data sources: Stunting from WHO Global database on nutrition; GNI from World Development Indicators
Inequities in Child Malnutrition

Mali

Niger

Source: DHS 2006 (figures based on NCHS/WHO reference population)

Micronutrient Deficiencies

Mali

Niger

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

**Affected countries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Affected Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>700,000 (&gt;25% of population)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>1.7 million (12% of population)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Assessment underway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>N/ A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- 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

Projections January – March 2012
Source: FEWSNET
World Bank Scoping missions to Mali and Mauritania to assess in-country situation

Preliminary findings from the missions

**Mauritania**
- Rainfall is below average and unevenly 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
MAP: Expected number of cases of SAM in Sahel in 2012

Expected number of cases of severe acute malnutrition by region across the Sahel in 2012

Causes of Child Malnutrition

Determinants of Child Nutrition and Interventions to Address them

- Infant and young child nutrition and treatment of severe undernutrition
- Micronutrient supplementation & fortification
- Hygiene practices

- Agriculture & food security
- Health Systems
- Soc. protection/safety nets
- Water and sanitation
- Gender and development
- Girls’ education
- Climate change

- Poverty reduction & economic growth programs
- Governance, stewardship capacities & management
- Trade & patents (& role of private sector)
- Conflict resolution
- Environmental safeguards

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Potential Actions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Response</td>
<td>First six months</td>
<td>- Scale-up emergency nutrition &amp; health responses</td>
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<td>- Build Safety-net systems, Cash transfer &amp; cash for work programs that are “nutrition-sensitive”</td>
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<td>- Recovery planning</td>
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<td>Economic Recovery</td>
<td>Six months to two years</td>
<td>- Early livelihood recovery</td>
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<td>- Jump-start crop &amp; livestock production</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Strengthen health &amp; nutrition services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>-- Address market failures</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Strengthen regional institutions &amp; capacities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drought Resilience</td>
<td>Two to five years</td>
<td>- Investments in drought resilient agriculture, water, especially in degraded &amp; pastoral areas</td>
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<td>- Risk financing, resilience planning &amp; preparedness</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Investments in social safety nets &amp; human capital</td>
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Use ‘nutrition security’ as a key vulnerability indicator that helps bridge the humanitarian and development responses