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MAPS & FACTS

FOOD ISSUES

DEMOGRAPHIC, URBAN, MIGRATION
AND SECURITY CHALLENGES



SAHEL AND
WEST AFRICA





ABOUT THE RPCA

Promoting dialogue and co-ordination, building a coherent and shared understanding of the food and nutrition situation, and nurturing decision-making: these objectives have been at the heart of the Food Crisis Prevention Network's (RPCA) mission for over 30 years. Created in 1984, the RPCA is an international network for co-operation and co-ordination under the political leadership of the Commissions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). Co-ordinated jointly by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD), the RPCA brings together the region's key food and nutrition security stakeholders: representatives of Sahelian and West African countries, regional organisations, regional and international information systems, bilateral and multilateral co-operation agencies, humanitarian agencies and international NGOs, agricultural professional organisations, civil society and the private sector.

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AT A GLANCE

This latest edition in the “Maps & Facts” series looks at the demographic, urban, migration and security challenges in the Sahel and West Africa through the lens of food issues. It complements the “Maps & Facts” issue on climate and climate change that was produced in November 2015 for COP 21 (page 36).

This document promotes the following key message: the challenges facing food security should not be overshadowed by the resurgence of demographic, migration and security concerns on the international agenda. Rather, food security is closely related to these issues, and should be considered as part of the solution to the challenges they raise.

Food issues are at the heart of the West African economy and society; ignoring their importance would be a strategic error. The business of making food for human consumption, including all elements of the value chain – production, processing and distribution – is the largest sector in the region, far ahead of oil, cash crops or industry. The food sector is key for creating more jobs, stimulating stronger and more inclusive growth, opening up a wider field of opportunities for agricultural producers and other entrepreneurs, and pulling the most vulnerable out of poverty and insecurity.

Food issues must therefore remain at the centre of all reflection, policy and action – from food crisis prevention, to economic development, to building the resilience of the most vulnerable people.

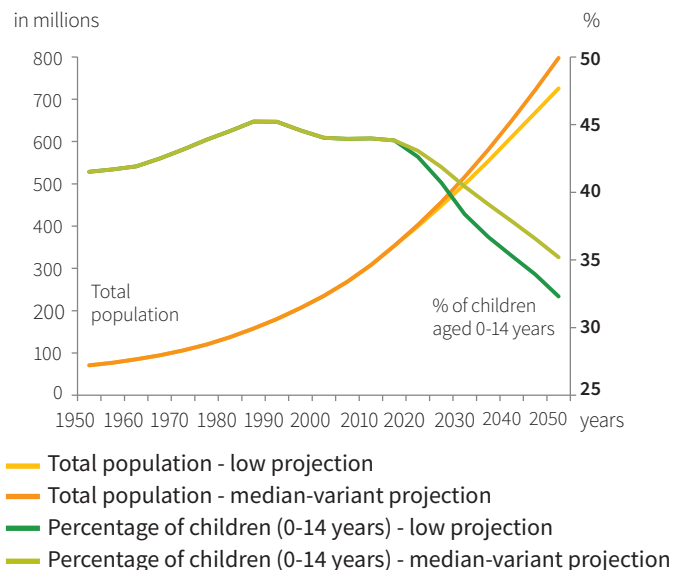
“The challenges facing food security should not be overshadowed by the resurgence of demographic, migration and security concerns on the international agenda. Rather, food security is closely related to these issues, and should be considered as part of the solution to the challenges they raise.”

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

IN NUMBERS

Over the past three decades, the population of West Africa has more than doubled. Every year, ten million children are born and another ten million children are of age to attend school. Education, health, access to drinking water, food, jobs and the environment are all challenges made even more difficult by high population growth. In 2015, the population of West Africa exceeded 370 million people. To project the population size in the years leading up to 2050, the United Nations uses four projection scenarios that differ only in the total fertility rate used. The most commonly used scenario is the average fertility rate. In West Africa, the difference between the average rate and the lowest growth scenario (anticipating a sharp decline in fertility) is about 70 million people. It is this scenario that should be the benchmark for development policies. **The goal is less to limit the growth in the number of inhabitants, than it is to reduce the proportion of very young people within the total population.** At the end of the last century, children aged 0-14 years, accounted for 45% of the population. If fertility declines rapidly, in 35 years, that category will be no more than 32% of the population (Figure 1). During the phase of demographic transition marked by declines in fertility, the decrease in the number of dependent persons per active person frees up the ability of people to save and invest productively, a key driver of strong, sustainable growth.

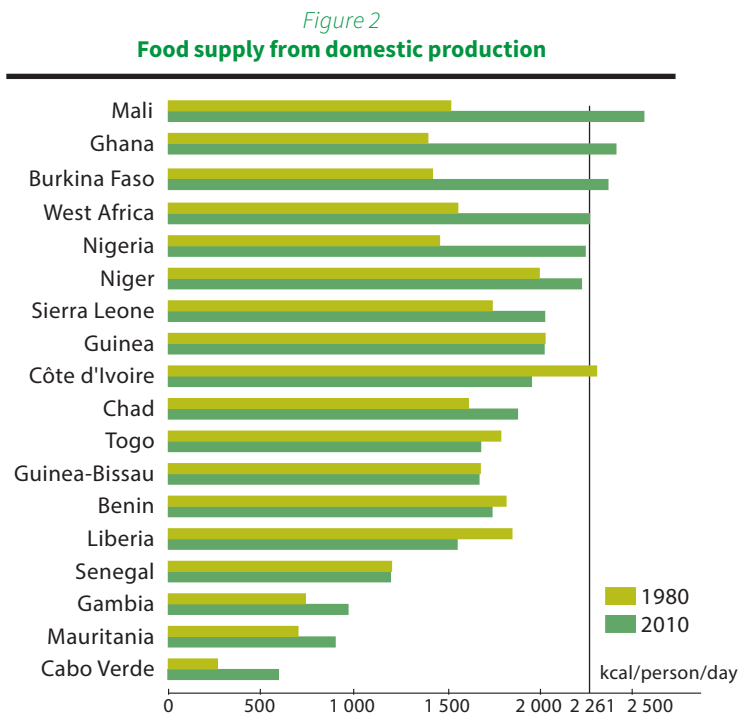
Figure 1
West African population, 1950-2050



Source: United Nations (2015), World Population Prospects

WEST AFRICAN AGRICULTURE HAS RISEN TO THE CHALLENGE OF POPULATION GROWTH

After two decades of stagnation, agriculture took off in the middle of the 1980s. **In 30 years, agricultural production has increased at a much faster rate than the population** and the supply of locally-produced food increased from 1 700 to 2 400 kilocalories per person per day (Kcal/person/day). In most West African countries, dependence on food imports has not increased. This represented 20% (kcal/person/day) in 1980 and is similar today. With massive campaigns to promote the rice sector and off-season farming, rice imports grew only 3.5 kg/person in 30 years. These achievements, which might have been even better if several countries had not experienced prolonged periods of conflict and instability, are a credit to West African farmers, agricultural producers, traders, transporters and processors. They have been able to respond to strong and steady increases in demand. In 1950, nine out of ten households were farmers. In 2010, the numbers have decreased to five out of ten. A decreasing proportion of the population has to feed the other part of the population, which is rapidly increasing. They have only been able to do this because of steady improvements in agricultural labour productivity which, after years of falling short, has been increasing since 1980 at the impressive rate of 2.6% per year. Yields have also increased, but less robustly. This is not surprising; as long as land is easily accessible, farmers prefer to increase their production by increasing the amount of land they cultivate.



Sources: FAO (2015); OECD/SWAC (2015)

UNDERNOURISHMENT HAS DECREASED

The West Africa region leads the continent in progress toward reducing the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

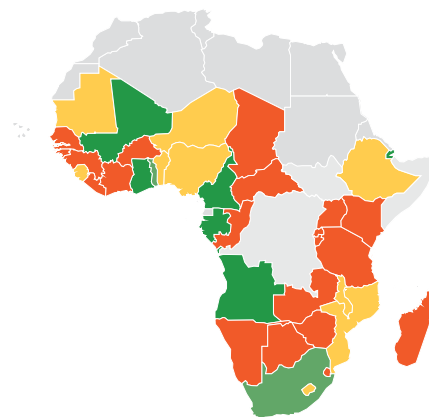
Despite rapid population growth across the region and recurrent droughts in the Sahel, West Africa has reduced the prevalence of undernourishment by 60% over the last two decades, from 24.2% in 1990-92 to 9.6% in 2014-16. Ghana and Mali have achieved both the Millennium Development Goal target of cutting in half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (MDG 1c) and the World Food Summit target of halving the absolute number of undernourished people by 2015.

Map 1

Progress towards achieving food security

World Food Summit target (2014-16)

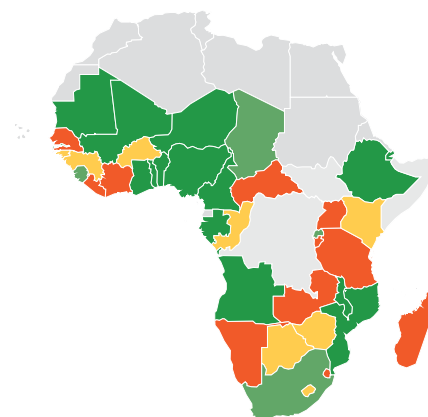
Halve the number of undernourished people by 2015



■ Target achieved
■ Close to reaching the target
■ Slow progress

MDG 1c target (2014-16)

Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (1990-2015)



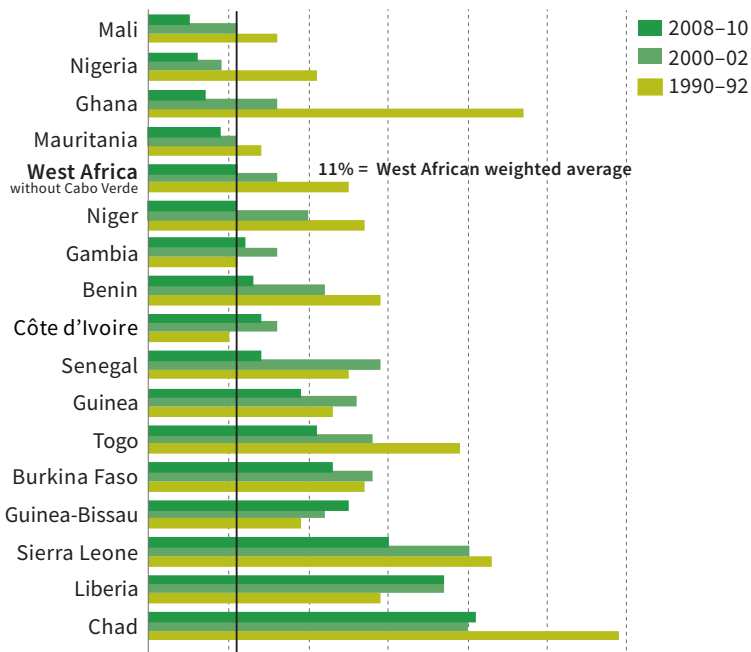
■ Off-track
■ Not assessed
■ Non Sub-Saharan countries

Source: FAO (2015), Regional Overview of Food Insecurity in Africa

35 MILLION PEOPLE ARE STILL UNDERNOURISHED

Despite a significant decrease in undernourishment, many West Africans have been left behind. **10% of the population – around 35 million people – still suffer from chronic undernourishment or malnutrition.** Among those particularly touched are the households of farmers excluded from the market, agro-pastoralists or pastoralists over-dependent on livestock and threatened by repeated droughts, and poor workers in the informal economy. These people – mostly women and children – are structurally vulnerable and unable to withstand the recurring shocks caused by droughts, floods, crop-destroying pests, economic crises and conflicts.

Figure 3
Prevalence of undernourishment



Sources: FAO (2015); OECD/SWAC (2015)

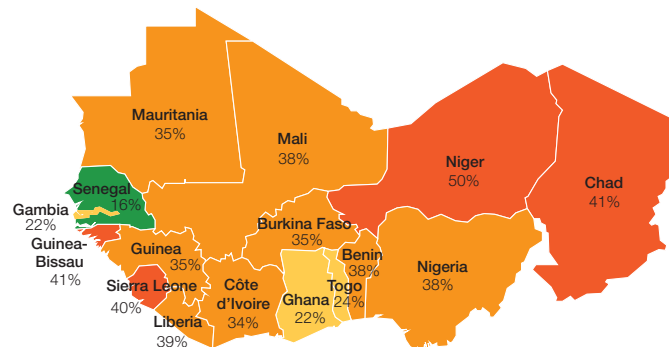
CHRONIC MALNUTRITION PERSISTS

Malnutrition is, first and foremost, a chronic problem.

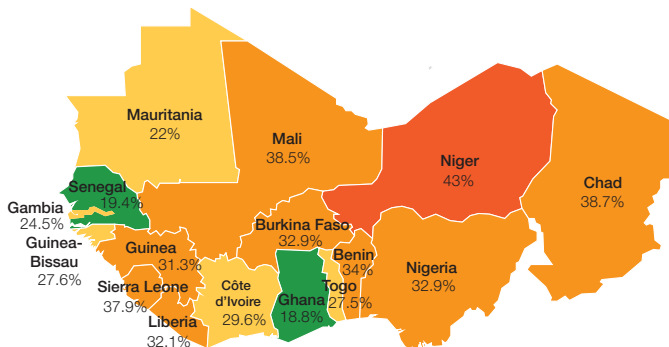
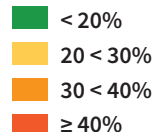
Rates of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in the Sahel have exceeded the alert threshold of 10% for at least the past 15 years. In many areas, they regularly exceed the emergency threshold of 15%. Nearly 40% of children under five years of age are stunted. Many factors explain this situation: poverty that limits access to food, weak social protection systems, poor health situation, etc. This is very much a structural problem that emphasises the need to address the root causes of food insecurity and which confirms the relevance of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR, page 34). With the exception of Cabo Verde, a country that does not have any particular difficulties, all Sahelian and West African countries have joined the SUN Movement, a global initiative to improve nutrition. In 2014, ECOWAS launched its own Zero Hunger Initiative.

Map 2
Prevalence of stunting (% of children, 0-5 years)

2000-06



2015



Sources: UNICEF, WHO (2013); UNICEF, WHO, World Bank (2015); Global Nutrition Report 2015

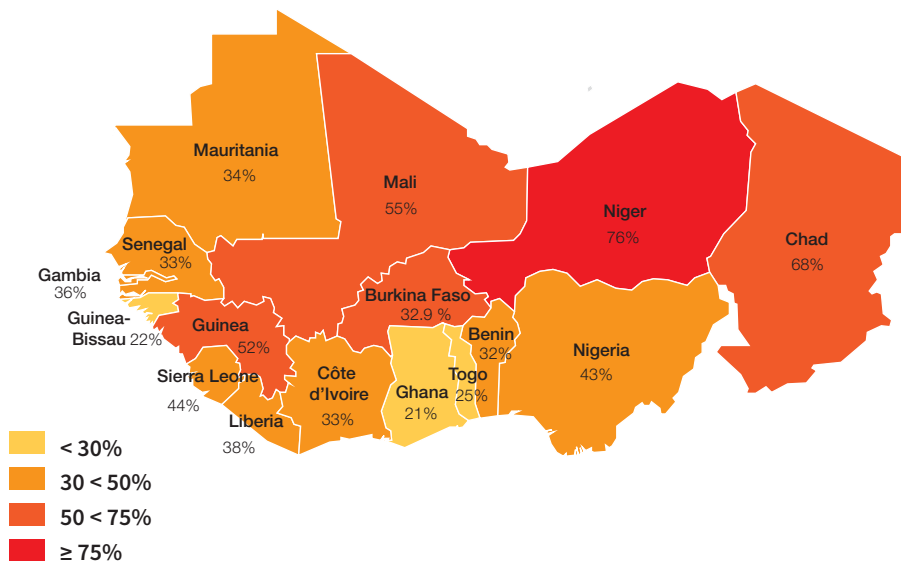
WEST AFRICAN GIRLS ARE **MARRIED OFF TOO YOUNG**

Seven West African countries rank among the top 20 countries in the world with the highest rate of child marriage: Niger (1),

Chad (3), Mali (5), Guinea (6), Burkina Faso (8), Sierra Leone (13) and Nigeria (14). In Niger, three out of four girls marry before their 18th birthday, contributing to the highest fertility rate in the world of more than seven children per woman. Nigeria and Niger are among the top 20 countries with the highest absolute number of child marriages, with 1.193 million and 244 000 married girls, respectively. Child marriage reinforces gender inequality and violates human rights by depriving young girls of the opportunity to fulfil their potential. **The region is collectively losing a huge, undeveloped human capital.**

In 2014, the African Union launched a campaign to accelerate change across the continent. Burkina Faso, Chad, Ghana, Mali and Niger have launched national campaigns to end child marriage.

Map 3
Percentage of young women (20-24 years) married before age 18



Sources: UNICEF (2015), State of the World's Children 2015; Girls Not Brides

THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS CONTRIBUTES TO REDUCING FERTILITY

The number of children per woman of childbearing age (five West African countries are among the top 10 in the world) is significantly correlated to the prevalence of early marriage, the fertility rate of girls and their level of education. Significant efforts are being made in the area of education, however, the effect is mitigated by the rate of population growth. In Mali, children under five are half as likely to experience stunting if the mother has attended middle school. **The demographic transition and the fight against malnutrition rely heavily on the condition of girls and women.**

Table 1
Fertility and school enrolment

COUNTRY	FERTILITY RATE % (2010-15*)	BIRTH RATE GIRLS (14-18 YEARS) PER 1 000	PRIMARY SCHOOL NET ATTENDANCE RATE GIRLS, % (2011-14*)	LITERACY RATE GIRLS (15-24 YEARS) % (2006-13*)
CABO VERDE	2.4	92	-	98
GHANA	4.2	65	70	83
MAURITANIA	4.7	71	62	48
TOGO	4.7	77	87	73
LIBERIA	4.8	147	43	37
SIERRA LEONE	4.8	131	74	56
BENIN	4.9	98	73	31
GUINEA-BISSAU	5.0	137	62	71
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	5.1	125	66	39
GUINEA	5.1	154	53	22
SENEGAL	5.2	80	66	71
BURKINA FASO	5.6	136	50	33
NIGERIA	5.7	123	66	58
GAMBIA	5.8	88	66	67
CHAD	6.3	203	48	46
MALI	6.4	178	50	34
NIGER	7.6	210	46	15

**Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified.*

Sources: UNFPA (2015); UNICEF (2015), State of the World's Children 2015

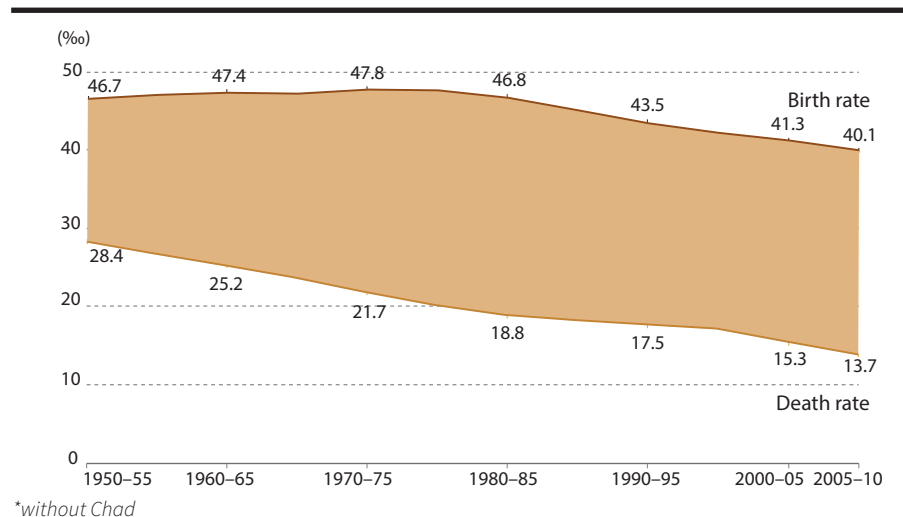
POPULATION POLICIES

Since the 1960s, mortality has declined steadily due to advances in medicine, immunisation and improved access to basic services like drinking water. Population policies should have resulted in a decline in natality greater than mortality to accelerate the demographic transition. However, this was not the case. Such **policies suffer from a lack of political support and from strong socio-cultural restrictions.** They should now be placed at the centre of development strategies to benefit from increased financial and human resources and thereby influence policies across all sectors. Population policies should include the distribution of modern and traditional forms of contraception and should use the media to inform people about the benefits of lower birth rates. The least resilient and most vulnerable and marginalised women should be prioritised, especially the poor and those who have limited access to education, healthcare and a regular, healthy diet. Policies should also draw on urbanisation as a strong factor for change (page 14).

Delays in the decline of the fertility rate will pose serious challenges to the improvement of food and nutrition security. Food security policies should take

the speed of the demographic transition into account - especially in countries where this transition is less advanced - in order to accelerate its completion.

Figure 4
Birth and death rates in West Africa*



Sources: OECD/SWAC (2013), Settlement, Market and Food Security; United Nations (2010)

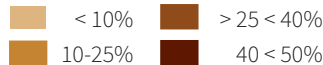
URBANISATION

IRREVERSIBLE URBANISATION

Africa is the least urbanised continent in the world, but an irreversible urban transition is very much underway. In West Africa, the number of urban agglomerations increased from 152 in 1950 to almost 2 000 in 2010. Today towns and cities are home to nearly 50% of the region's total population. At only 18%, Niger remains one of the least urbanised countries in the world, comparable with Burundi and Ethiopia.

Map 4

Levels of urbanisation



1950



1980



2010



Source: OECD/SWAC (2013), Settlement, Market and Food Security

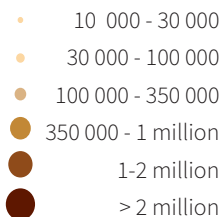
MORE AND BIGGER CITIES

Beyond the megacities, **a dense network of small and medium-sized cities is growing**. This is helping to shape national urban networks and to increasingly connect urban and rural populations.

Map 5

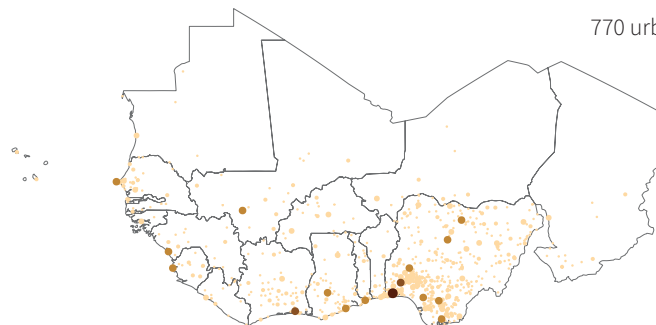
Urban agglomerations with more than 10 000 inhabitants

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS



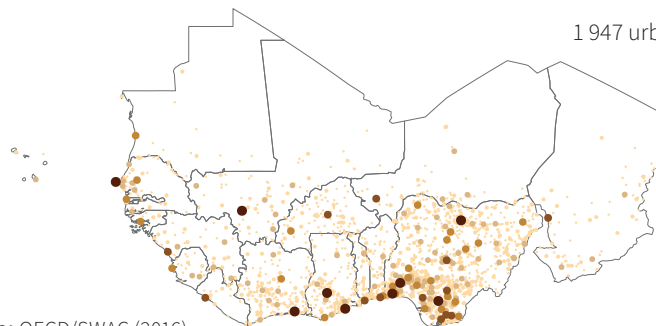
1980

770 urban agglomerations



2010

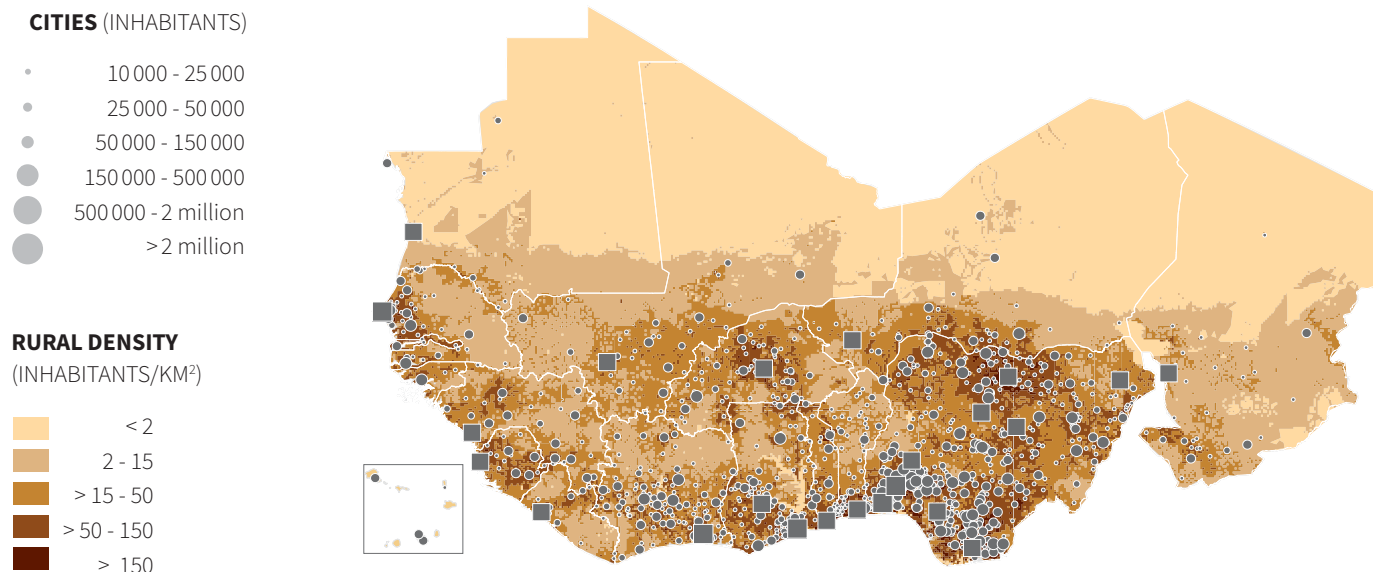
1 947 urban agglomerations



Source: OECD/SWAC (2016)

A DENSE NETWORK OF **SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED AGGLOMERATIONS**

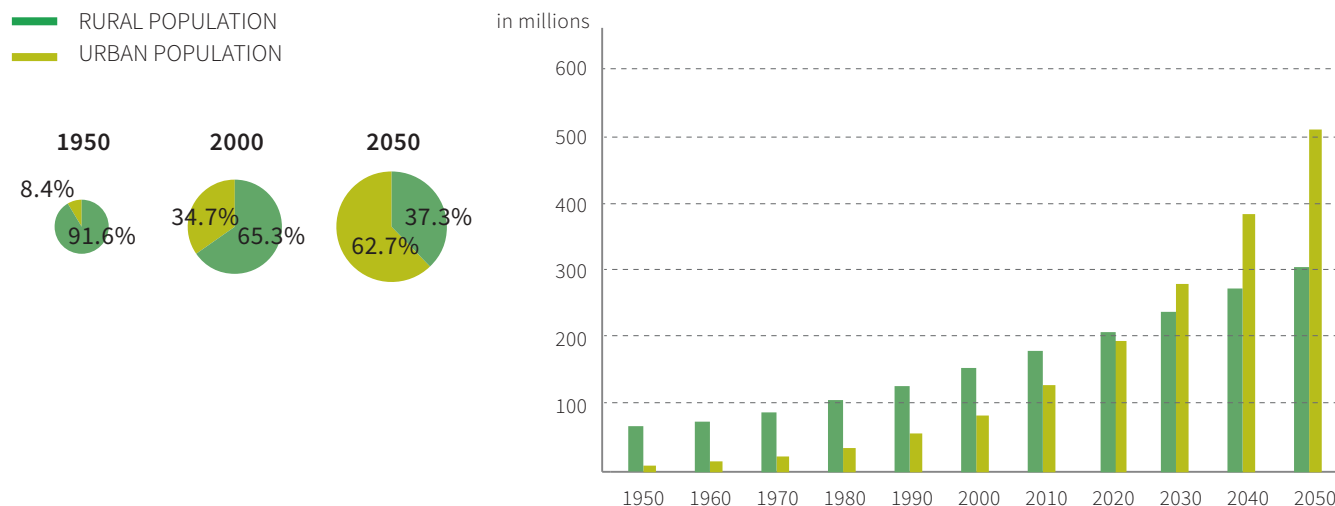
Map 6
Rural density and urban networks



Source: OECD/SWAC (2013), Settlement, Market and Food Security

THE RURAL POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW BUT THE URBAN POPULATION IS CATCHING UP

Figure 5
Rural and urban populations in West Africa

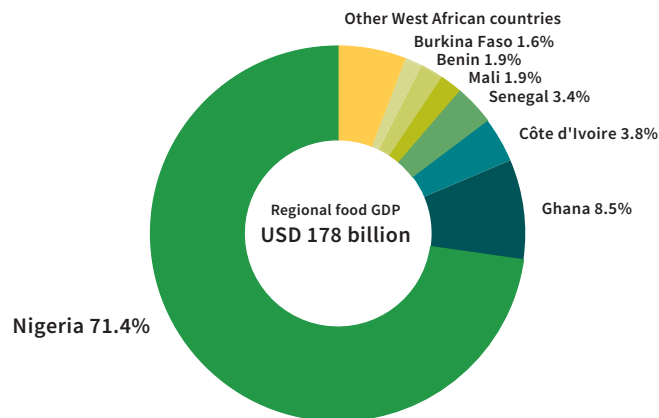


Source: United Nations (2015), World Population Prospects

THE CITY IS THE ENGINE OF THE FOOD ECONOMY

Rural populations tend to concentrate in areas near cities. The growth of cities therefore stimulates the integration of rural and urban areas, and the vector of integration is trade. **Markets provide at least two-thirds of household food consumption in West Africa.** In addition, about one-quarter of the rural population works outside of the agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors. The urban, informal sector largely depends on transportation, processing and the sale of food products. A food economy is rapidly developing between rural and urban areas, which, in 2010, was estimated at USD 178 billion, or 36% of the regional GDP.

Figure 6
Share of regional food GDP by country*, 2010



*GDP expressed in terms of purchasing power parity

Source: Allen, T. and P. Heinrichs (2016), "Emerging Opportunities in the West African Food Economy", West African Papers, No. 1, OECD Publishing, Paris.

THE FOOD ECONOMY: A PRIMARY SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture represents only 60% of the food economy.

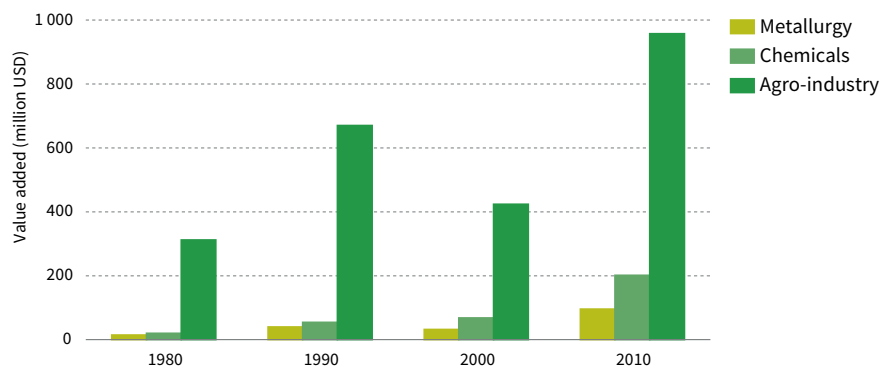
The economic activities that take place upstream (input supply, seeds) and downstream (processing, trade) account for 40%. The food industry is growing faster than agricultural production. It consists of numerous and increasingly complex value chains. For example, processed products based on cereals, whether ready-to-eat products (breads, cookies, cakes) or ready-to-use products (flour, meal, grains), go through several stages before reaching the final consumer. They are subject to more or less sophisticated methods of processing, stabilisation and packaging. The raw material was bagged, transported, unloaded, stored, inspected, calibrated, cleaned, crushed, rolled, sometimes dried or roasted, chilled or frozen, packaged, wrapped and sometimes cooked in street restaurants. Apart from a few relatively large industrial structures (breweries, flour mills, etc.), the sector primarily consists of microenterprises and SMEs which are often family-run and informal.

Production processes are frequently artisanal, involving limited mechanisation and standardisation. But these companies are gradually changing and an increasing share of them are investing, mechanising, professionalising and even industrialising.

As the region's primary economic sector, the food industry is by far the main source of employment.

It should be placed at the centre of strategies to provide jobs for millions of young people and to develop income-generating activities for the most vulnerable populations.

Figure 7
Manufacturing activities in Senegal, 1980-2010



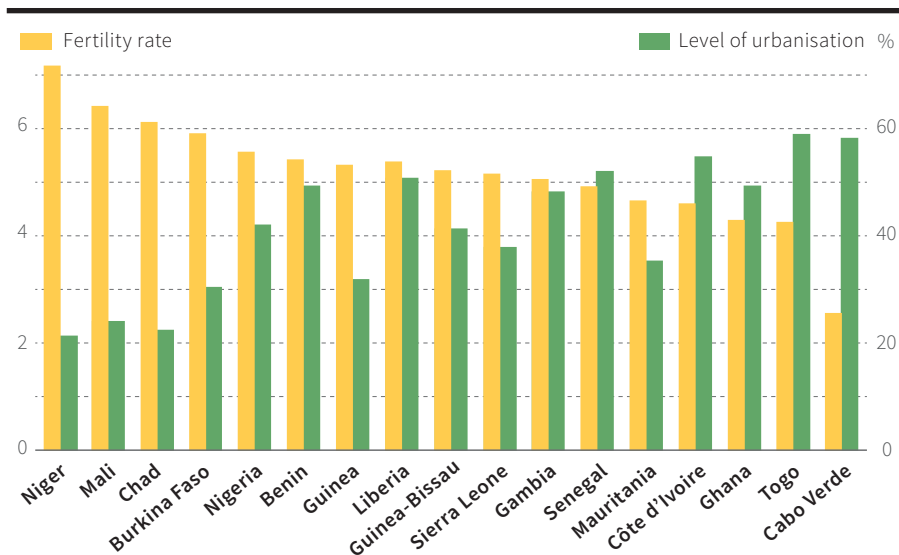
Source: Allen, T. and P. Heinrigs (2016), “Emerging Opportunities in the West African Food Economy”, West African Papers, No. 1, OECD Publishing, Paris.

THE CITY AS AN ACCELERATOR OF **DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION**

Urbanisation is a powerful force for lowering fertility.

It promotes the education of girls and facilitates access to healthcare; it offers more employment opportunities for women; access to information and dissemination of ideas and attitudes happens faster than in rural areas; and housing is more expensive and is, therefore, less spacious. This phenomenon is proven in West Africa, with variances from one country to another and from one period to another. The continuation of the urban transition should accelerate decreases in fertility and facilitate the downward population trend. Population policies should seize the opportunity to expand on these declines (page 13).

Figure 8
Urbanisation and fertility



Source: OECD/SWAC (2013), Settlement, Market and Food Security

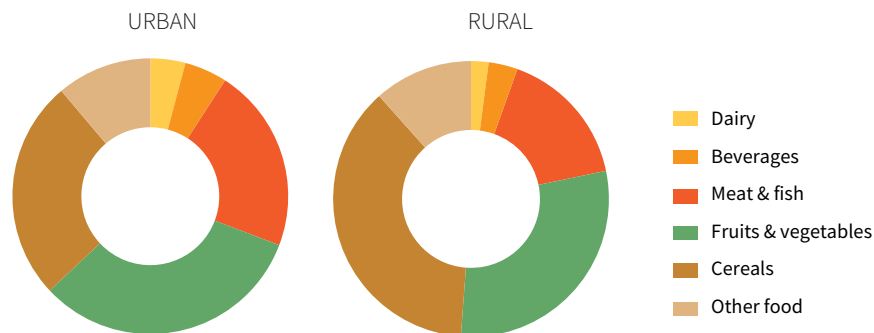
FOOD SECURITY IN CITIES

Urban food insecurity is a real problem,

the scale of which is likely to increase as urban populations expand. The problem is poorly documented, however, and its unique characteristics should be better taken into account in food and nutrition monitoring systems. In particular, urban households depend almost exclusively on the market for food. Food security, therefore, depends on the level and stability of food prices. And prices depend on how well the entire food chain (production, processing, transportation, storage and distribution) functions (page 35). These processes might face obstacles and shocks that must be anticipated by food crisis prevention mechanisms. In addition, it is important to take into account the fact that the composition of the household food basket in urban areas is significantly different than that of rural areas.

Figure 9

Distribution of household food consumption, 2010



Source: Allen, T. and P. Heinrigs (2016), “Emerging Opportunities in the West African Food Economy”, West African Papers, No. 1, OECD Publishing, Paris.

MIGRATION

LESS THAN A THIRD OF WEST AFRICAN MIGRANTS LEAVES THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

In 2015, the UN estimated the number of West African migrants in the world at 8.7 million. About 66% of them are located in West Africa, 20% in Europe, 8% in North America and the rest are mainly in other parts of Africa. Over time, there has been a slow erosion of the proportion of migrants staying within Africa as more people travel to North America, Europe and, to a lesser extent, Asia.

Figure 11
Country of origin of West African migrants in Europe

2015
1.6 MILLION MIGRANTS

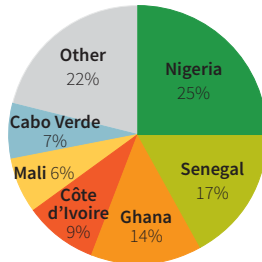
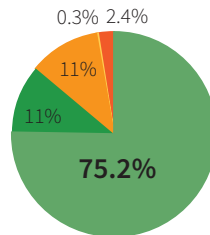
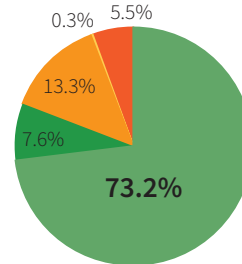


Figure 10
West African migrants in the world

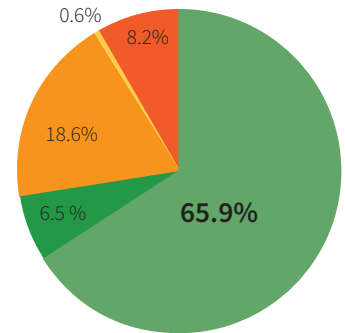
1990
5.7 MILLION MIGRANTS



2000
6.4 MILLION MIGRANTS



2015
8.7 MILLION MIGRANTS



WEST AFRICA

REST OF AFRICA

EUROPE

NORTH AMERICA

ASIA

Source: United Nations (2015), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Trends in International Migrant Stock

HIGH REGIONAL MOBILITY

West Africans are among the most mobile populations in the world.

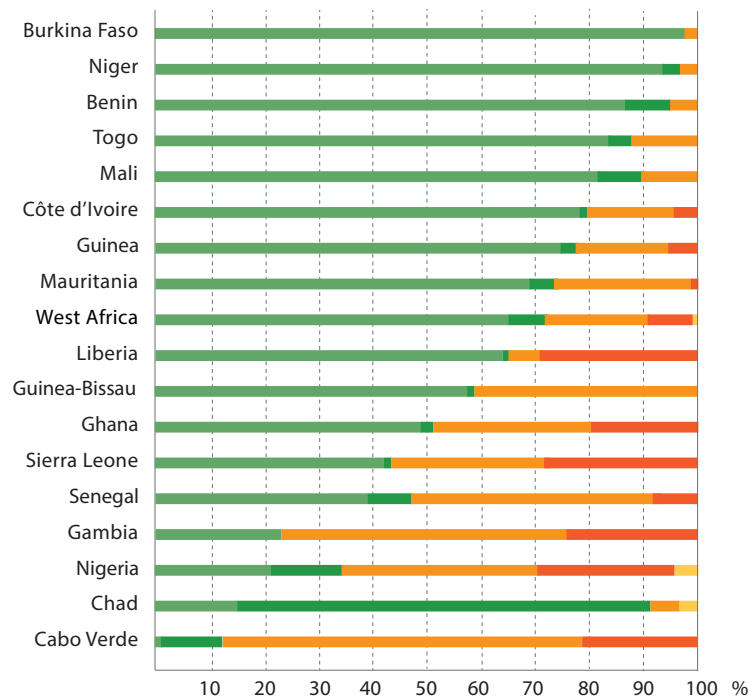
Intra-regional mobility is almost seven times greater than the volume of migration from West Africa to the rest of the world. The ECOWAS Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Residence, and Establishment (1979) favours intra-regional mobility, although its application still encounters numerous obstacles on the ground. This protocol and its additional texts reflect the political will of ECOWAS member states to place regional mobility at the heart of the regional integration process.



Source: United Nations (2015), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Trends in International Migrant Stock

Figure 12

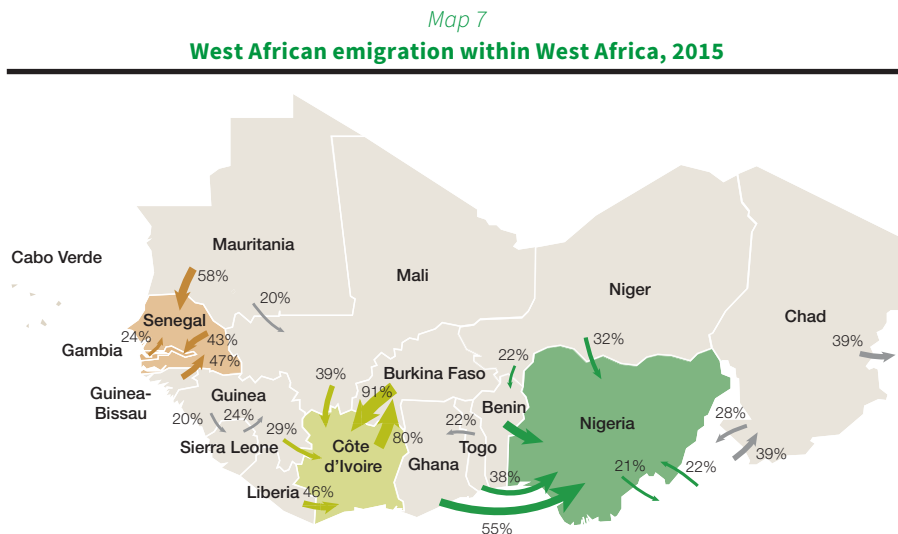
Distribution of West African emigrants, 2015



THREE SUB-REGIONAL MIGRATION AREAS

Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria make up the two main poles of migration in the region.

They are the main receiving countries for emigrants from neighbouring countries. Senegal and Gambia make up a third pole of migration. But the official figures belie a much larger migration. The Nigerian Population Commission believes that, although a little over 1 million ECOWAS nationals are officially registered as living in Nigeria, the real numbers could be as high as 3-4 million.



Only values greater than 20% of the emigrant workforce from each country present in the other countries of the region are represented.

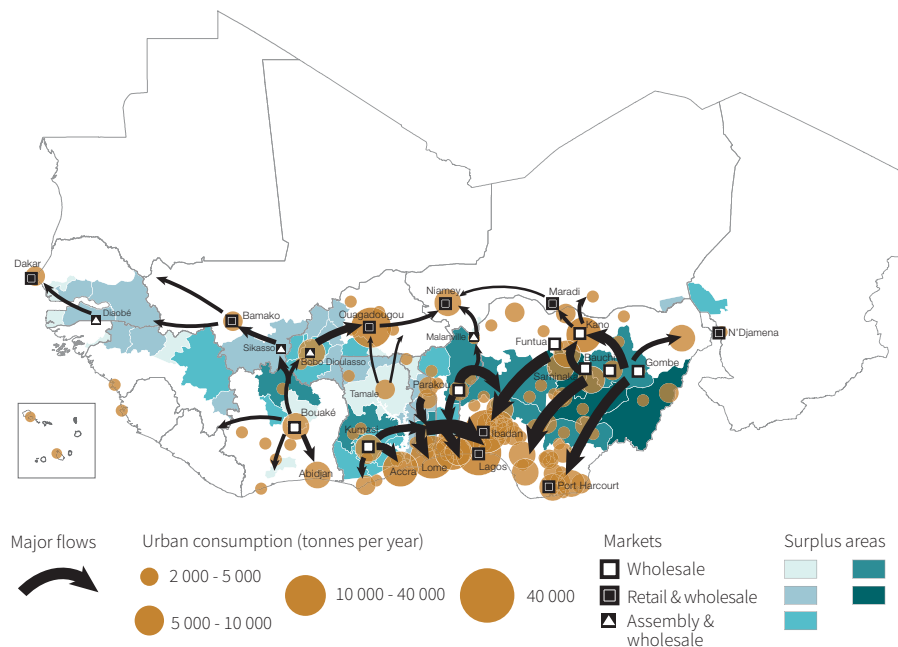
Source: United Nations (2015), Département for Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Trends

SOCIAL AND BUSINESS NETWORKS

West African migration forms the basis of strong social and business networks.

These networks contribute to the regional integration of agribusiness markets such as the maize market.

Map 8
Regional maize flows



Sources: OECD/SWAC (2013), Settlement, Market and Food Security; FewNet (2012); FAO AgroMaps (2012); Bricas *et al.* (2009); West Africa Trade Hub (2011)

SAHELIAN MIGRATION **WITHIN THE REGION**

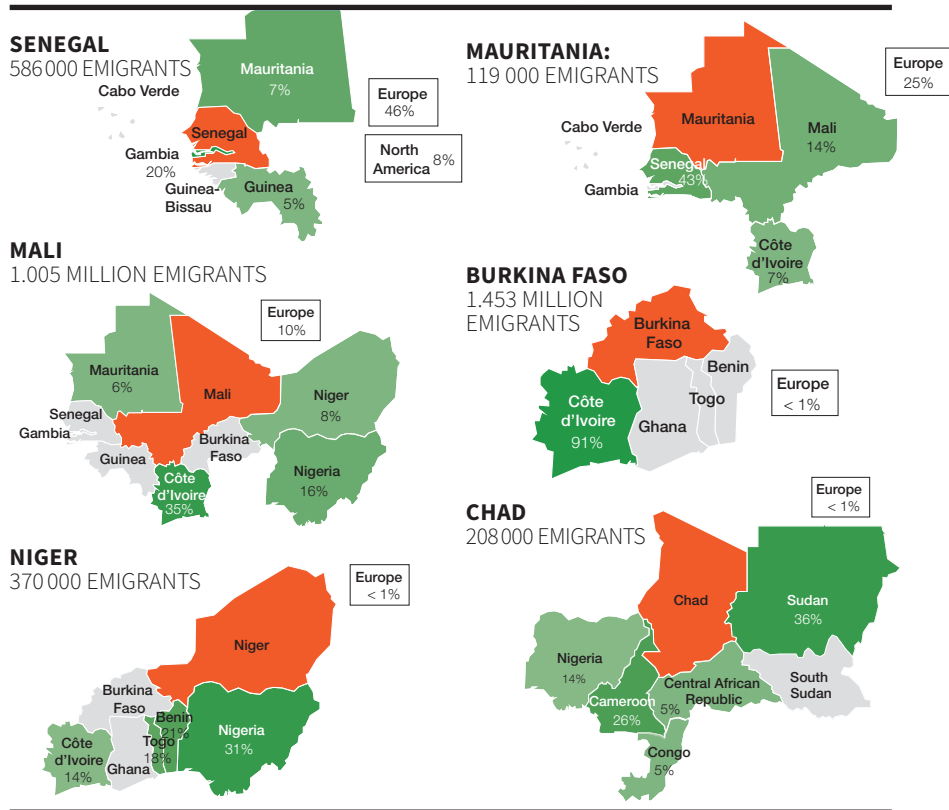
Map 9

Places of residence of Sahelian emigrants, 2015**Burkina Faso and Mali alone are responsible for over 28% of West African emigrants.**

Along with Niger and Chad, they are the countries whose migration trajectories are most centered on neighbouring and nearby countries. Emigrants from Senegal and Mauritania are more oriented towards the rest of the world. Cabo Verde has proportionately the largest number of emigrants; its diaspora is larger than its resident population. Seasonal migration during the lean season in Sahelian countries is impossible to accurately assess, but is probably in the millions. It is an important factor in food security since seasonal migrants generate additional income and relieve pressure on the environment.

Only values greater than 5% are represented.

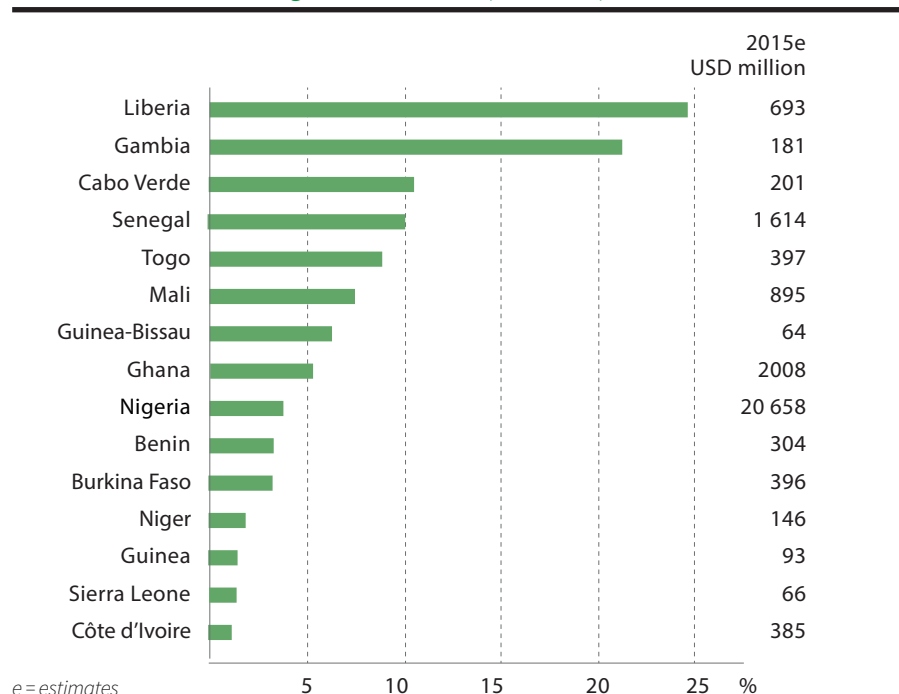
Source: United Nations (2015), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Trends in International Migrant Stock



MIGRANT REMITTANCES

Between 2005 and 2010, officially registered remittances from emigrants to ECOWAS countries increased, on average, by more than 8% per year to nearly USD 23 billion in 2010. This is twice the amount of foreign investment and 5% of the regional GDP. **Nigeria alone accounts for 86% of these inflows.** The transfers come mainly from emigrants living in developed countries, but are also significant in countries where the majority of the emigrants reside in West Africa - Togo and Mali, for example. These transfers have a documented impact on poverty reduction and inequality, as well as the food security of vulnerable households.

Figure 13
Migrant remittances, % of GDP, 2014



Source: World Bank (2016), Data on migration and remittances

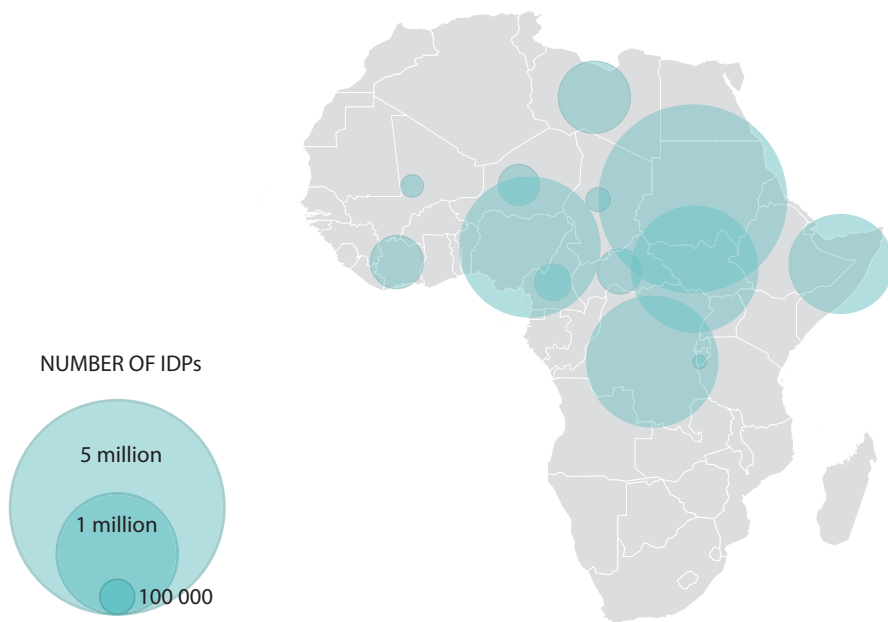
HALF A MILLION REFUGEES IN CHAD AND NIGER

At the global level, forced displacement hit a record high in 2015.

According to the UNHCR Global Trends 2015, some 65.3 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalised violence or human rights violations. This is 5.8 million more people than in 2014. Sub-Saharan Africa hosts about 29% of the world's displaced people. In West Africa, forced displacement is a major concern around the Lake Chad basin. Violence and human rights abuses in northern Nigeria have left nearly 2.2 million people internally displaced. Over 200 000 others are sheltering in neighbouring Cameroun, Chad and Niger. Chad hosts one out of two refugees in West Africa, representing a total of 370 000 refugees plus another 52 000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Niger hosts some 125 000 refugees and 137 000 IDPs. At the end of 2015, Chad ranked fifth worldwide for its refugees/inhabitants ratio, hosting 26 refugees per 1 000 inhabitants.

Map 10

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa, 2015

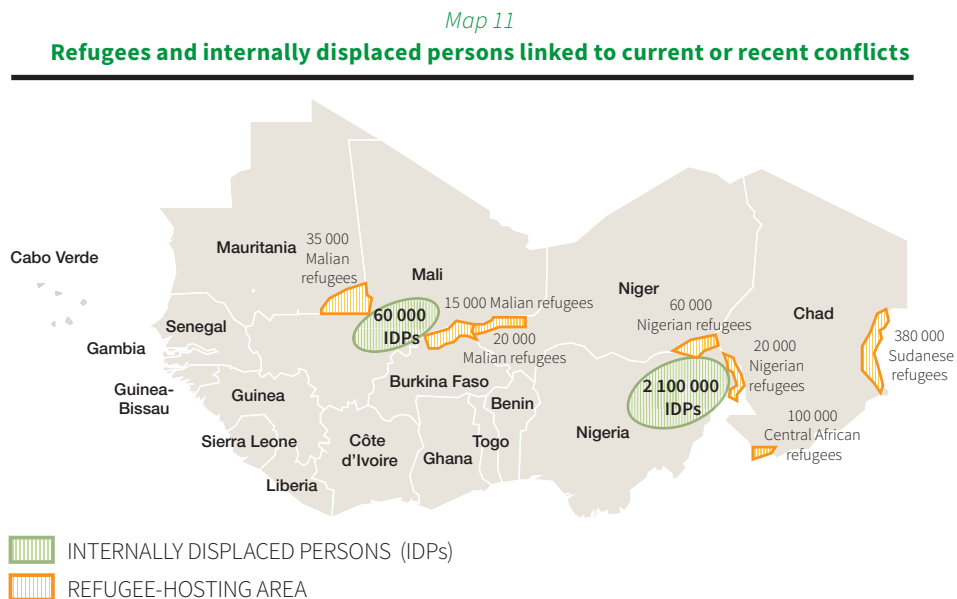


Source: UNHCR (2016), Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2015

AT THE CROSSROADS OF FOOD & SECURITY CHALLENGES

SECURITY THREATS EXACERBATE STRUCTURAL WEAKNESSES

Niger, Chad and Mali are very fragile countries, combining problems related to their high rates of population growth, poverty and food insecurity. **Security threats are exacerbating these structural weaknesses.** In Sahelian countries, the insecurity-food complex must be addressed via a single, integrated approach. The prevention and management of food crises should go hand in hand with the prevention and management of conflicts and instability. Achieving stabilisation through development must also integrate food resilience and the development of the food economy (pages 18 and 19).



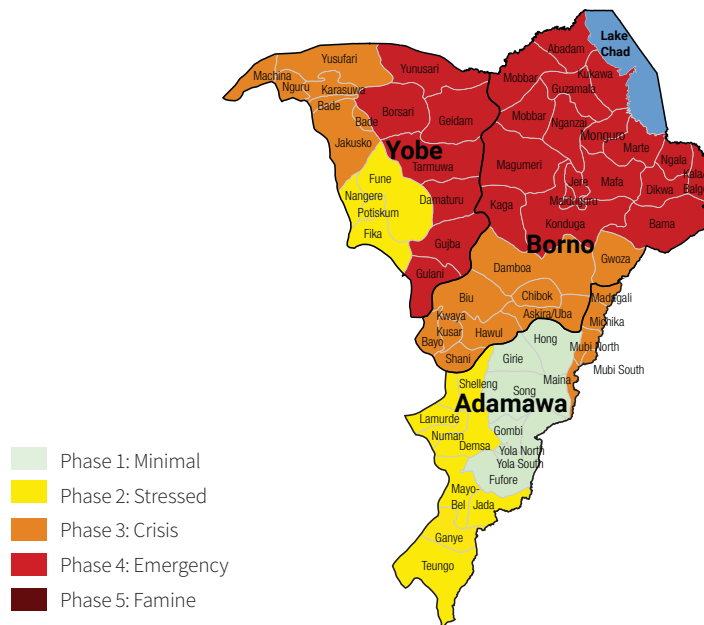
Source: UNHCR (2016), Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2015

THE EXAMPLE OF NORTH-EASTERN NIGERIA

Of the 9.5 million people in need of food and nutritional assistance in 2016, the majority are located in the Lake Chad basin, where civil insecurity is disrupting markets and destroying the livelihoods of local households. **The Islamist Boko Haram insurgency is the main cause of acute malnutrition in this area** and the Nigerian government declared a nutritional emergency in the state of Borno in June 2016. Three million people were in crisis (phase 3), of which 1.86 million were internally displaced (IOM and NEMA, April 2016). This estimate was later revised upwards and according to the *Cadre harmonisé* analysis, it is estimated at 4.4 million people for the period of June-August 2016. The situation remains unclear due to the fact that many areas are still inaccessible.

Map 12

Food insecurity in north-eastern Nigeria, October-December 2016



Source: Analysis of the *Cadre harmonisé* conducted by three teams composed of government representatives, CILSS, FAO and Fews Net, October 2016.

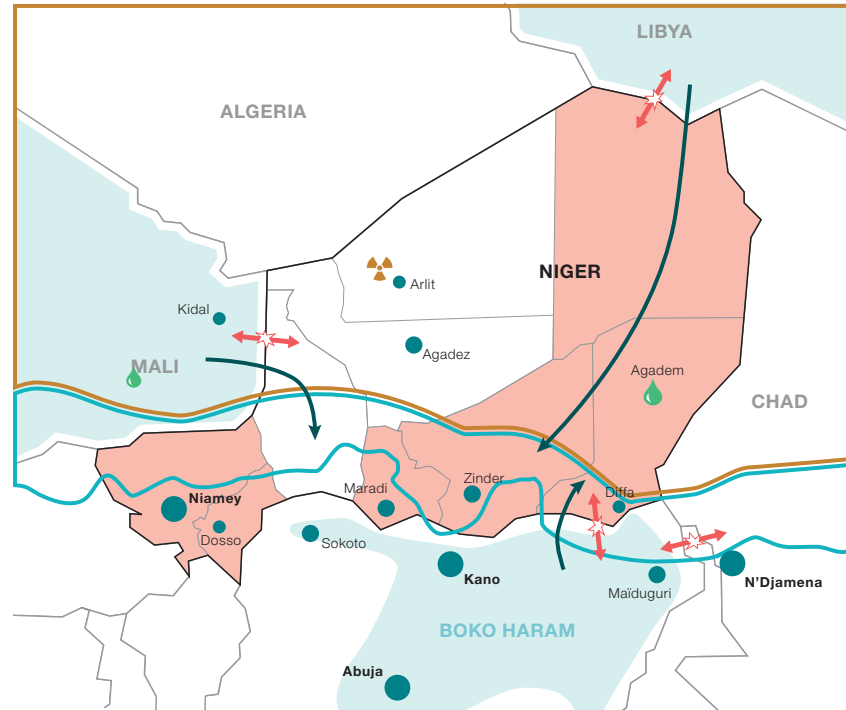
THE EXAMPLE OF **NIGER**

Map 13

Niger: Internal fragilities & regional threats

Niger is now facing three threats. In the west, Niger faces the risk of destabilisation coming from northern Mali; in the south, the influence of Boko Haram is growing, and in the north-east, the risks related to the war in Libya represents a serious cause for concern. A part of the population believes that their legitimate social requests – including those related to food security and resilience – are being relegated to the back burner because of security concerns.

- Saharan zone: less than 200 mm of rainfall per year; approximately 600 000 km² and less than 0.5 million inhabitants in its Nigerien zone. ⚡ Uranium mines and 💧 oil.
- Sahel's vulnerable zone: The inter-annual variation of the length of the rainy season exceeds 30%. Approximately 5 million rural inhabitants in its Nigerien zone, predominantly agro-pastoralists.
- Area regularly faced with food & nutrition insecurity
- Conflict area
- ↔ Regional diffusion of instability
- ➔ Involuntary migration





Source: OECD/SWAC (2014), An Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Geography, Economics and Security


THE EXAMPLE OF CHAD

The regional security environment is also a concern for Chad, which has a significant

security apparatus but is now suffering a sharp drop in its financial resources due to the fall in oil prices. Chad remains one of the poorest countries in the world where chronic food insecurity is a widespread issue for much of the population.

 Saharan zone: Less than 200 mm of rainfall per year; approximately 700 000 km² and less than 0.7 million inhabitants in its Chadian zone.

 Sahel's vulnerable zone: The inter-annual variation of the length of the rainy season exceeds 30%; approximately 2 million rural inhabitants in its Chadian zone, predominantly agro-pastoralists.

 Area regularly faced with food and nutrition insecurity


 Conflict area

 Area of instability

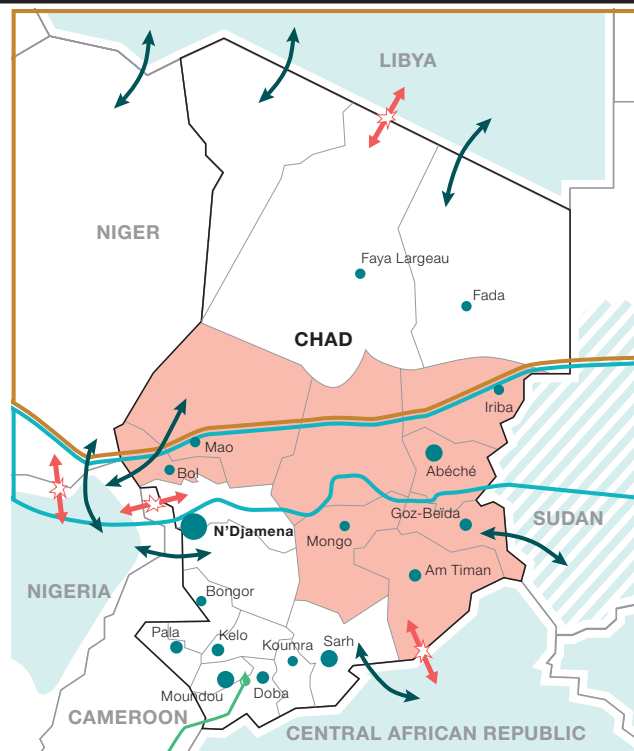
 Regional diffusion of instability

 Trafficking (arms, drugs)

 Oil field

 Pipeline

Map 14
Chad: Internal fragilities and regional threats



Source: OECD/SWAC (2014), An Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Geography, Economics and Security

THREE PRIORITIES

FOOD CRISIS PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

The prevention and management of food and nutrition crises must remain public policy priorities, whatever their cause (climate shocks, price volatility, economic recession, political tensions, conflict, pandemics) and wherever they strike (rural and urban areas, migration routes, refugee camps and refugee-hosting areas). Prevention and management efforts must be co-ordinated at the regional level, failing which – for example – a crisis alert could be launched by a government according to criteria different from those used in other countries.

West Africa has an advantage over other African regions. Created more than 30 years ago, the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) unites all stakeholders – national, regional and international – under the political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA. Co-ordinated jointly by CILSS and the SWAC/OECD Secretariat,

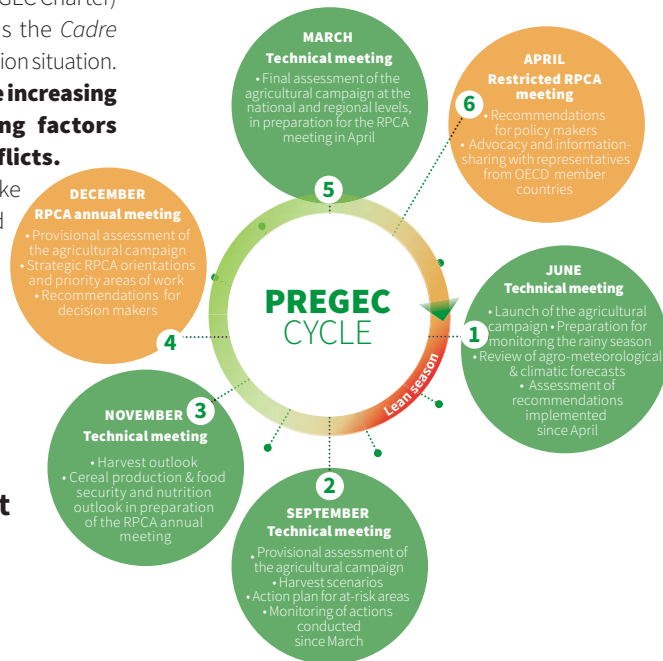
it has adopted the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC Charter) and uses common tools such as the *Cadre harmonisé* to assess food and nutrition situation.

The Network must adapt to the increasing complexity of the underlying factors of food crises, including conflicts.

It should also help Members take into account the specific food vulnerabilities of urban areas.

“The prevention and management of food and nutrition crises must remain public policy priorities, whatever their cause.”

Figure 14
PREGEC cycle



RESILIENCE

When a crisis occurs, it is counter-productive to separate humanitarian assistance from the fight against endemic poverty and famine. When faced with a crisis of any kind (climatic, economic, social, security), the weakest are also the most vulnerable. Focus must therefore be placed on strengthening their resilience. **Increasing the resilience of millions of people is a long-term challenge** that is complex by nature because there are often many intersecting causes. The challenge cannot be met without a multisectoral approach based on a political partnership that engages West Africans and their partners. This is the ambition of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) – Sahel and West Africa. **AGIR is not just another initiative or an additional financial opportunity, but it allows food resilience allies to unite around objectives, approaches, tools and a mutually-agreed upon results framework.**

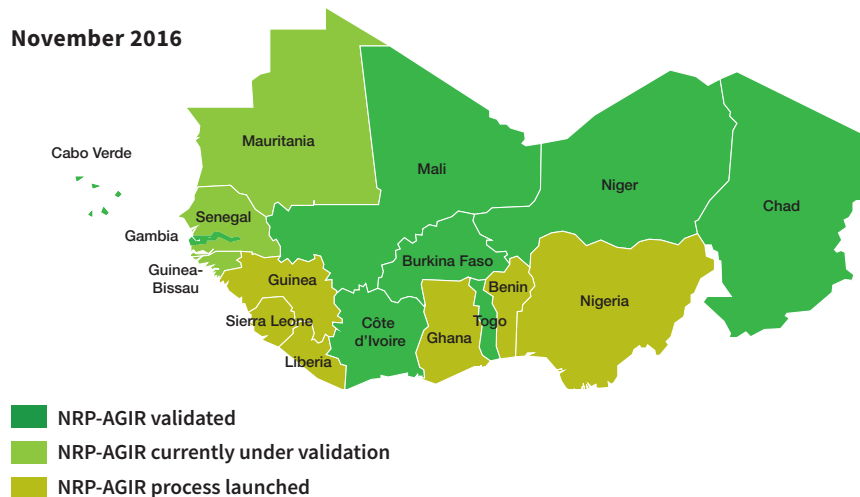
The Alliance provides the opportunity for all involved countries to develop a national framework, called NRP-AGIR (National Resilience Priorities). The mission of this framework is to bring together all initiatives, programmes

and projects contributing to resilience. AGIR is, therefore, a tool to improve the efficiency of collective action. The Alliance is under the political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA and receives technical support from CILSS.

The RPCA is the forum for dialogue among its stakeholders (page 33). The SWAC/OECD Secretariat contributes to the management, promotion and methodological reflections of the Alliance.

Map 15

Formulation process for the National Resilience Priorities (NRP-AGIR)



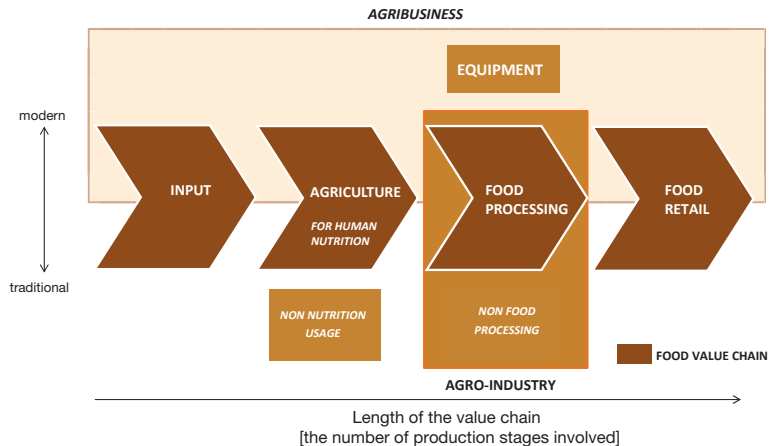
GROWTH & EMPLOYMENT

Economic growth - and its corollary employment - is a constant of many West African public policies and most international strategies for the region. How to find jobs for millions of unemployed youth? How to make the local economy more attractive than migration? How to give hope to young people who maybe be tempted by crime? How to develop a more inclusive and less volatile economy than one that is based on the exportation of oil, gas, minerals and raw agricultural products? These issues are addressed by sector (primary, secondary, tertiary) and by segment (rural/urban areas, informal/formal sector). The most common approach is to prioritise agriculture (which is often wrongly considered to be equal to the whole rural zone). A more systemic analysis shows that the food economy - rural and urban, primary, secondary and tertiary, formal and informal - is much larger than the agricultural economy alone and has the potential to create more growth and more jobs. Since it focuses on the domestic market, which has a high growth rate, it is not as volatile and should be the keystone of economic policies.

Cross-cutting and multi-sectoral strategies are needed to enhance the food economy's potential. These strategies should be based,

first and foremost, on the needs of stakeholders and West African professional organisations.

Figure 15
Food value chain



Source: Allen, T. and P. Heinrigs (2016), “Emerging Opportunities in the West African Food Economy”, West African Papers, No. 1, OECD Publishing, Paris.

REFERENCES

This booklet draws on the publications and work conducted by the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (SWAC/OECD):

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- Settlement, Market and Food Security, West African Studies, OECD Publishing (2013);
- The Africapolis online database (OECD.Stat);
- An Atlas of the Sahara-Sahel: Geography, Economics and Security, West African Studies, OECD Publishing (2014);
- Other studies published within the West African Studies series: Regional Atlas on West Africa (2008), West African Mobility and Migration Policies of OECD Countries (2008), Regional Challenges of West African Migration (2009), Conflict over Ressources and Terrorism (2013);
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- The Maps & Facts series published within the SWAC NewsBrief;
- Work conducted by the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA).

Maps & Facts, No.1, November 2015 Climate, Climate Change & Resilience







SAHEL AND
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BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES