



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The Niger and Burkina Faso

Sida's contribution to the Special Fund for
Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
(SFERA) – Anticipatory Action window



Protecting assets and livelihoods in the Sahel

The Sahel region is experiencing a food crisis, with 38.3 million people projected to be in acute food insecurity during this year's lean season (June–August 2022) - a fourfold increase compared with 2019 - and millions more at risk of slipping into a crisis situation or worse.

The Niger is suffering from multiple crises that continue to impact the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable farming communities. Climatic shocks, a precarious security situation, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the war in Ukraine on food prices have placed thousands at risk of food insecurity. Compounding the situation is the negative outcome of last year's agricultural production, which saw a 39-percent drop compared with the five-year average. As a result, around 4.4 million people are likely to be in acute food insecurity (Phase 3 and above of the Cadre Harmonisé) during the current lean season. In Burkina Faso, the main drivers of food insecurity since 2016 have been weather extremes, with

the country prone to the adverse effects of climate change and hazards dominated by drought and floods, and a precarious security situation due to violence perpetrated by armed groups. The country is reeling from an unprecedented increase in population displacements, with a current caseload of over 1.8 million internally displaced people.

In the Sahel, the effects of climate change are worsening irregular rainfall and climatic shocks such as floods. Both the Niger and Burkina Faso are especially vulnerable to flood risk. This year's current rainy season (July–September) in the Niger is expected to bring above-average rains once again, with high risks of floods - a recurrent hazard leading to significant livelihood losses. Among the most impacted from above-average rains is the Maradi region, one of the key millet producing areas, the main cereal crop in the Niger. Possible future floods could exacerbate populations' existing vulnerabilities.

In Burkina Faso, livestock plays an important role in the country's economy. Considering the hazardous ramifications of floods on animal health such as the increase of waterborne



diseases and loss of lives in exposed localities, protecting the animals and avoiding livestock losses is key to safeguarding the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable pastoral households.

The time to act is now. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is acting fast to mitigate the impact of potential floods on those most at risk through no-regret anticipatory actions. Thanks to the Swedish International Development Agency's (Sida's) contribution to the SFERA – Anticipatory Action window, FAO will strengthen capacities for risk management and support 25 958 households, mainly in the Niger's Maradi region, to strengthen their resilience. Awareness raising activities will be carried out on prevention and preparedness against shocks, and will support the control of millet caterpillar, damaging crops in particular during heavy rains. FAO will also support cash-for-work activities to reinforce dykes, river guards, irrigation canals and protect crop plots; and provide veterinary support as well as unconditional cash transfers.

An additional contribution from Sida to the SFERA – Anticipatory Action window will enable FAO to quickly protect 1 200 vulnerable pastoral households in Burkina Faso to mitigate the risk of floods with the aim of safeguarding their livelihoods and food security. The intervention comes in the form of veterinary services to safeguard livestock health, including deworming and vaccination to protect animals against water-borne diseases; and financial assistance through unconditional and conditional cash transfers, which enable households to cover immediate food needs.

The project will prioritize households in flood-prone areas, and those headed by women, with pregnant and lactating women, with children under five years and with people living with disabilities, as well as internally displaced people given their greater vulnerability.

Acting early in flood-prone areas in the Sahel through cash assistance, capacity building and veterinary support can protect the assets and livelihoods of vulnerable pastoralists.

REQUIRED CITATION: FAO. 2022. *The Niger and Burkina Faso: Sida's contribution to the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) – Anticipatory Action window*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2097en>



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