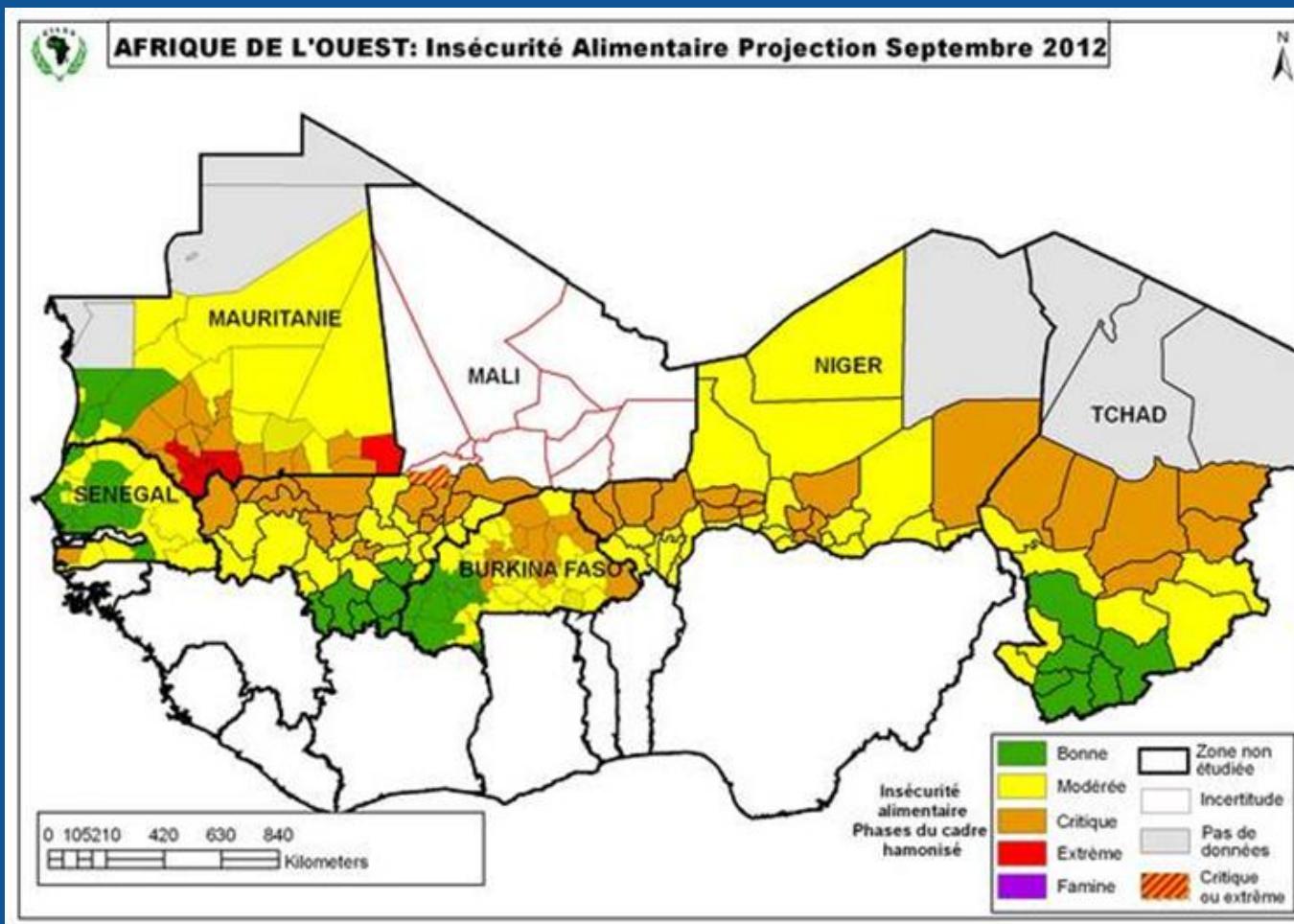


# AGIR Sahel / West Africa



# Food insecurity in the Sahel





## **6M people suffering from the food crisis in the Sahel in 2012:**

The situation of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition in the Sahel region, exacerbated by the refugee and displacement crisis in and around Mali, called for an immediate intervention by the West African and international community to further intensify efforts with a view to alleviating the situation of the people affected by the crisis and to minimize the scale of similar such crises in the future.

- Need for a short term and long term response
- Set up of a task force ECHO/ DEVCO/EEAS (EU plan of action)



## EU approach and principles

The recurrent nature of the crisis in the Sahel and the on-going emergency call both for:

- an immediate response to help the people in need;
- a structural and long-term strategy to reduce the chronic risks of food security and strengthen resilience.

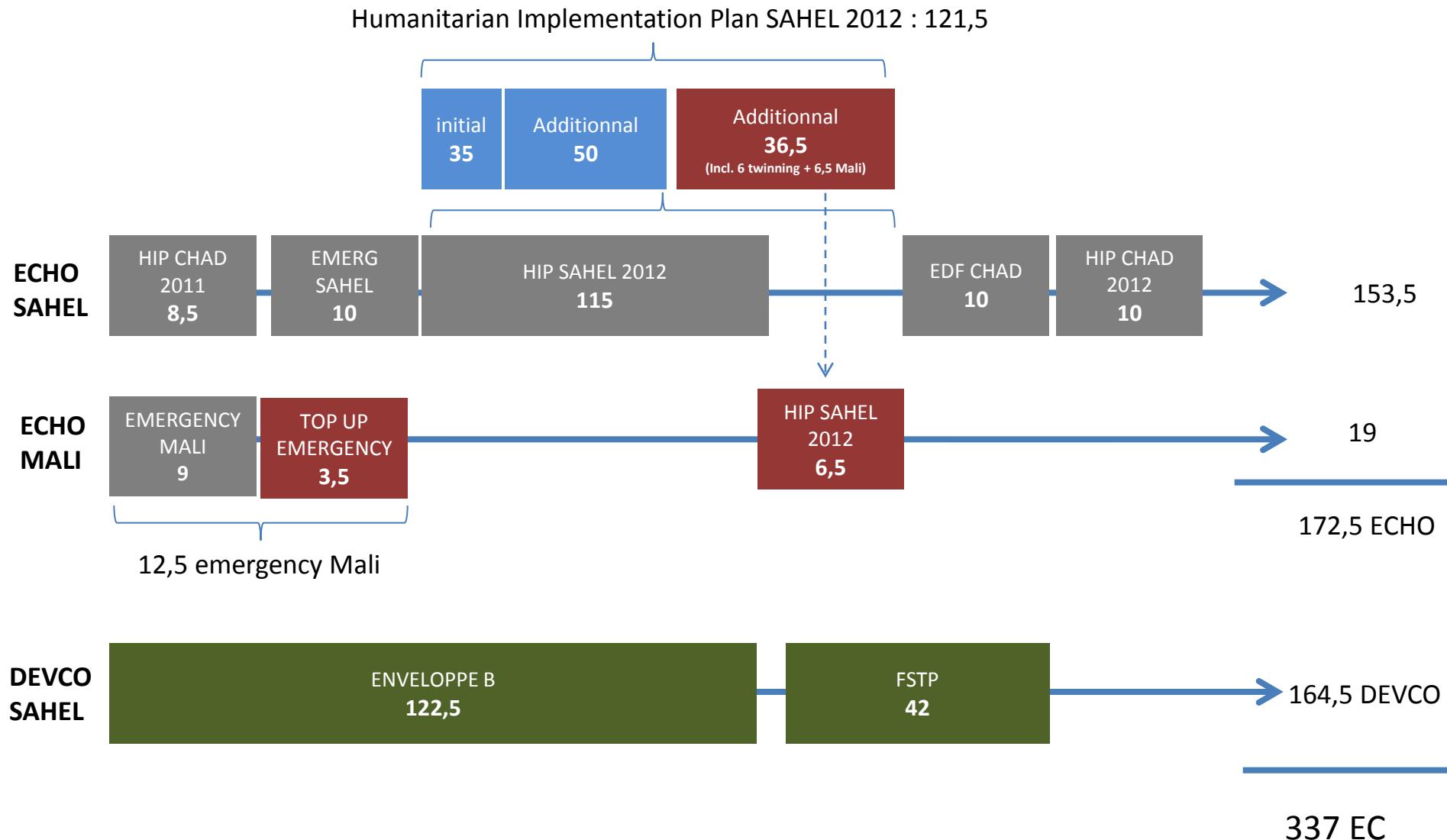
In line with this, **three-phased approach** of the EU:

- ✓ mitigation and preparedness measures (November 2011 – February 2012);
- ✓ emergency response (March – September 2012);
- ✓ recovery/resilience building (after September 2012).

Principles of intervention

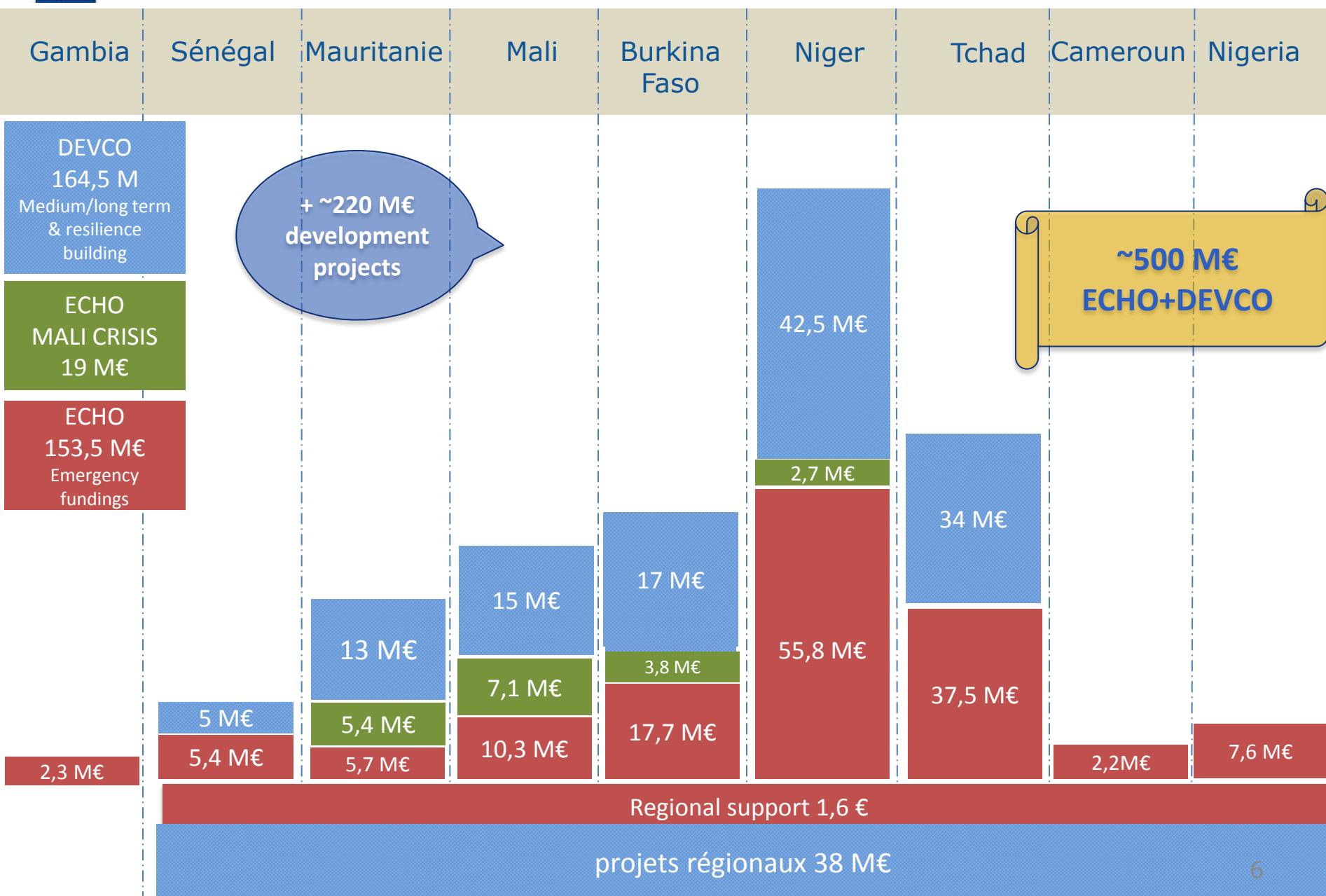
- National ownership
- Improved governance of the food security sector
- Close coordination between humanitarian and development

# EU response to the food crisis in the Sahel / Mali crisis



Plus an approximate amount of 220 MEUR of on-going/foreseen projects  
in the food security sector

# EU response to the food crisis in the Sahel / Mali crisis





## Humanitarian aid

172,5 M€ to respond to emergency food-security needs, address acute malnutrition. Part of this allocation finances activities for the emergency in Mali.

Activities include:

- blanket feeding operations and reinforcing of existing nutrition treatment activities;
- support to markets to ensure availability of food in remote areas and to pastoralist communities to ensure availability of fodder in markets;
- support for the 2012/2013 cropping season through organisation of input fairs, targeted cash transfers and/or direct input distribution;
- cash and voucher transfers and targeted food assistance to the most vulnerable households.



## Development aid

Projects for 220 M€ are currently on-going or planned in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Chad and Senegal

Due to the aggravation of the food crisis, the EU has decided to allocate an additional 164,5 M€ (short/medium/long term):

- Mauritania : 13 M€
- Burkina Faso : 17 M€
- Mali : 15 M€
- Niger : 42.5 M€
- Chad: 34 M€
- Senegal : 5 M€
- West African regional initiatives : 38 M€

## EU development interventions

Wherever possible, EU development channelled via existing and well functioning national food security mechanisms



Niger: Sector Budget Support to support the 'Dispositif National de Prévention et de Gestion des Crises et Catastrophes'

Part of the additional allocation will be implemented by international organizations



Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal: WFP implements short and medium term actions, cash/food for work and 'actions structurantes'

The Food Security Thematic Programme contributes to the EU response



Burkina Faso, Chad: NGOs will implement actions to improve resilience and to ensure transition between humanitarian and development.



## The way forward

The EU will continue and intensify the work it has been carrying out in the region:

- strengthening resilience
- working on the root causes of malnutrition
- improving the functioning of regional markets
- increasing the regional and national capacity to reduce the risks of disasters

## **AGIR – Sahel is the vehicle**



## Launch of the Alliance Globale pour les Initiatives Résilience (AGIR) - Sahel and West Africa

- High-level consultation in Brussels on 18 June 2012 on the Sahel food and nutrition crisis 'addressing the emergency, investing in resilience' at the invitation of Commissioners Georgieva and Piebalgs to discuss lasting responses to the dramatic food and nutrition crises which, year after year, hit the Sahel
- Launch of a Partnership for resilience between the West African countries and organizations of the Sahel region, their international partners and agricultural producers, civil society and the private sector: strong commitment to join efforts to end hunger and malnutrition and achieve a substantial and durable improvement in the resilience of the most vulnerable populations
- The partnership is meant to be a vehicle for close coordination among partners and a mean to keep attention on food security and nutrition / resilience issues at a high level on the political agenda



## AGIR objectives

- Launching ceremony of AGIR-Sahel/West Africa on 6 December 2012 in Ouagadougou: Joint statement outlining the objectives, principles, priorities and next steps of the Alliance
- The overall objective of the Alliance is to "structurally reduce, in a sustainable manner, food and nutritional vulnerability by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West African policies"
- The Alliance aims to achieve "Zero Hunger", i.e. eliminating hunger and malnutrition within the next 20 years



## AGIR specific objectives

- Pillar 1: Restoring and strengthening the livelihoods and social protection of the most vulnerable
- Pillar 2: Strengthening health and nutrition (social safety nets)
- Pillar 3: Increasing food production, the incomes of vulnerable households and their access to food in a sustainable manner
- Pillar 4: Strengthening governance in food and nutritional security



## AGIR principles

- The AGIR-Sahel Initiative should be anchored in the region and fully driven by the affected countries and regional organizations which have the political and technical mandate to address the underlying and structural causes of the recurrent food and nutrition crises in the Sahel
- the AGIR-SAHEL Initiative should be placed under the joint political leadership of ECOWAS and UEMOA. These two regional economic communities agreed to have the CILSS playing the role of their 'Technical Agency' in the field of food security and drought control.
- Int'l partners have a key role to play in encouraging, stimulating and supporting these governments and the regional organizations in their efforts to strengthen resilience in the short-term and the long-term.



## AGIR principles

- The partnership is meant to be a vehicle for close coordination among int'l partners and better alignment on existing regional initiatives - (ECOWAP/CAADP) for agricultural investment, food and nutrition security, health, education, social protection, etc. - with a view to :
  - improving sharing of information and analysis, facilitating alignment of aid strategies,
  - reinforcing the link (LRRD) between emergency response and development and ensuring greater aid effectiveness in programming development funds.
- An active dialogue with the civil society, including NGOs, agricultural producers and breeders' organizations as well as the private sector is acknowledged as being essential for a complete picture of the root causes of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition in the area and to shape appropriate policy options and actions to address it.



## AGIR principles

- Multi-sectoral approach and subsidiarity with regard to the different levels of intervention (local/community, national, regional) and to the different categories of stakeholders based on their comparative advantages and a clear definition of their roles and responsibilities
- Need to address the current crisis through a scaled up response and a more coordinated and coherent effort to strengthen resilience of the most vulnerable populations in order to minimize the scale of similar crises in the future



## **AGIR is based on a shared definition of the term “resilience”**

*“The capacity of vulnerable households, families and systems to face uncertainty and the risk of shocks, to withstand and respond effectively to shocks, as well as to recover and adapt in a sustainable manner.”*

- This definition calls for linkages between humanitarian and development efforts (LRRD) in order to increase the resilience of vulnerable households and families and break the cycle of recurrent food and nutritional crises. It therefore addresses, in a unified manner, the acute and chronic causes of food and nutritional crises – while helping vulnerable persons increase their incomes, access infrastructures and basic social services and build wealth by sustainably strengthening their livelihoods.



## AGIR - beneficiaries

- The West African countries (15 ECOWAS Member States + Chad and Mauritania) with an emphasis on Sahel countries which are most vulnerable to food and nutritional crises
- Efforts focused on the following categories of households :
  - **Small-scale farmers with limited market access, insecure land tenure, and little capital to invest in agriculture, who are thus not producing enough food to feed themselves and have few opportunities for income diversification. This group includes a large number of landless rural residents.**
  - **Agro-pastoralists and pastoralists whose capital stock and livelihoods are continually threatened by recurring weather hazards.**
  - **Poor agricultural and non-agricultural workers in urban and rural areas.**
- with a special attention to the most vulnerable groups, including under-five children and more particularly under-two as well as pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers



## The Sahel and West Africa Club's Secretariat

- The SWAC of which ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS are members :
  - is a unique platform for policy analysis and dialogue, in support to the regional organizations and their technical agency in the field of food security and drought control – the CILSS.
  - brings together the main international and regional stakeholders, institutions as well as civil society organizations.
  - provides support to strengthen West African leadership and agenda (Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA), Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management, Regional Food Reserve, G20 Regional Food Reserve pilot project, etc.).



## The Sahel and West Africa Club's Secretariat

- Role of the SWAC Secretariat in AGIR-Sahel:
  - acting as a platform bringing together regional actors (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS), governments, development and humanitarian partners as well as civil society organisations and the private sector, in order to facilitate the coordination of relevant actions in support of the resilience agenda;
  - acting as a facilitator in support of the regional organisations to strengthen their political leadership and enhance regional and national ownership and in support of the CILSS to root the coordination of the AGIR-Sahel initiative in the region;



## AGIR – Next steps (2013)

- The 'Resilience Roadmap' (quantitative specific objectives and monitoring indicators) and the governing mechanism of the AGIR-Sahel/West Africa to be endorsed in April 2013
- Inclusive consultations will be organized at country level to identify the priorities of operational frameworks for financing, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, on the basis of existing national policies and plans.
- End November 2013 : West Africa Week and AGIR meeting (Abidjan)

**Linkages with the EU programming exercise at national/regional level for 2014-2020**



# Thank you