

# A Regional Emergency Humanitarian Food Reserve

Proposal for a Pilot Programme

# Key Principles

**Under the strong leadership and ownership of ECOWAS, would:**

- **Complement** and integrate **national, regional, continental and global food security mechanisms**, strengthening synergies with ongoing initiatives,
- Operate with the **active participation of countries and region concerned**, taking into account the aid effectiveness principles
- Optimise existing instruments and **strengthen coherence between national, regional, continental and global mechanisms**,
- **Build national and regional capacity** to manage food stocks and to design and deploy effective safety net systems,
- **Prioritise local and regional procurement** of food to replenish the reserve, contributing to the goals of national and regional agricultural policies, and
- Benefit from lessons learned and experience gained through other initiatives promoted by the G20.

**Operational rules further elaborated during implementation....**

# Key Principles

“It would strengthen systems of national and regional resilience, addressing a specific challenge to existing response mechanisms, providing a critical additional line of defence and saving lives in emergencies.”

# Key Design Features

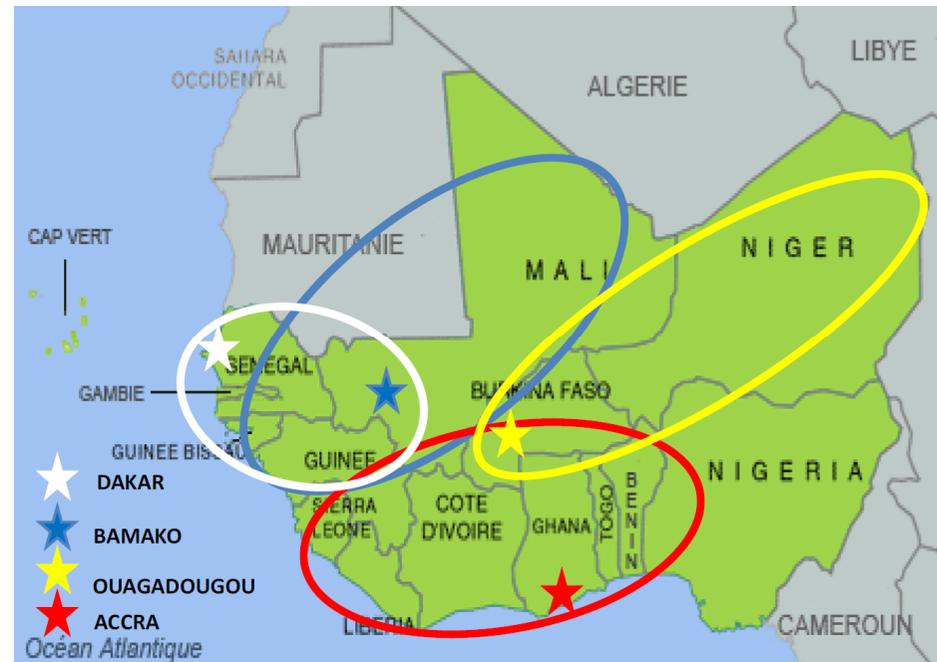
- Benefits entire region while targeting limited group of countries
- Capitalizes on existing structures
- Prioritizes local and regional procurement
- Establishes a small regional food stock
- Locates food stocks strategically
- Predetermined and arms-length trigger criteria
- Distributes food through safety net programmes
- Transparent, streamlined governance structure

# Sizing and Composition

- Provides food for up to 90 days
- 30-day physical stock
- 60-day virtual stock
- Holds four commodities in physical and virtual stocks- maize, millet, rice and sorghum
- Separate allocations for each participating country.

# Procurement and Logistics

- Commodity procurement to be a combination of local, regional and international purchases at market prices.
- PREPARE warehouses to be located in four countries that serve as regional clusters: Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and Ghana.



- Virtual stock arrangements with private sector, national food reserves, financial institutions and farmers
- Rotation with food assistance organisations.

# Triggers

- Clear trigger criteria are essential to ensuring participating countries have predictable and timely access to food.
- Two-step trigger mechanism links extreme global price volatility with country-level needs
  - Global trigger (IFPRI's NEXQ tool) provides an objective measure of price volatility
  - Country-level trigger (FEWSNET) identifies existing food shortages
- Trigger at country level could eventually be replaced by regional early warning mechanism being developed by CILSS.

# FEWSNET Integrated Food Security Phase Classification System

<b>Phase 1</b> <b>No Acute Food Insecurity</b>	<b>Phase 2</b> <b>Stressed</b>	<b>Phase 3</b> <b>Crisis</b>	<b>Phase 4</b> <b>Emergency</b>	<b>Phase 5</b> <b>Catastrophe</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>HH groups do not experience short term instability; OR</i></li> <li>· <i>HH groups experience short term instability but are able to meet basic food needs without atypical coping strategies.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>HH group experiences short term instability; AND</i></li> <li>· <i>HH group food consumption is reduced but minimally adequate without having to engage in irreversible coping strategies.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>HH group experiences short term instability; AND</i></li> <li>· <i>HH group has significant food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition; OR</i></li> <li>· <i>HH group is marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies such as liquidating livelihood assets or diverting expenses from essential non-food items.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>HH group experiences short term instability; AND</i></li> <li>· <i>HH group has extreme food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition or excess mortality; OR</i></li> <li>· <i>HH group has extreme loss of livelihood assets that will likely lead to food consumption gaps.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>HH group experiences short term instability; AND</i></li> <li>· <i>HH group has near complete lack of food and/or other basic needs where starvation, death, and destitution are evident.</i></li> </ul>

# CILSS Food Insecurity Classification System

	Phase	General Description
1	<b>General Food Security</b>	Access to food generally adequate and stable (Equivalent to 3 meals a day taken regularly)
2	<b>Moderate Food Insecurity</b>	Limited access to adequate food; risk of situation deteriorating (equivalent to between 2-3 meals per day on average)
3	<b>Critical/Acute Food Insecurity</b>	Insufficient access to adequate food; depletion of assets related to livelihoods at risk (equivalent to between 1-2 meals per day on average)
4	<b>Emergency/ Extreme Food Insecurity</b>	Serious shortcomings in access to food coupled with excessive mortality, high malnutrition and a loss of productive assets (equivalent to less than 1 meal per day on average)
5	<b>Famine</b>	Total lack of access to food, serious social disruption and massive displacement of population and depletion of assets related to livelihoods (equivalent to less than 1 meal a day on average)

# Release Terms

- When both trigger criteria are met or when country-level criterion met and country requests food from Executive Board, countries could:
  - Borrow up to a 30-day supply of food, then replenish it in kind.
  - Buy up to their maximum 90-day allocation at the market-based cost of replenishment .

# Safety Nets

- Food from PREPARE reserve could be distributed through a wide range of food-based safety nets and other targeted programmes run by governments and development partners
- Participating countries and partners would develop and implement safety net schedules and monitoring plans
- PREPARE would support tailored capacity building that assists countries to refine, develop and scale up safety nets

# Existing Safety Nets

Country	Existing Social Protection Programs				
	Cash Transfer	Food for Work	Food Ration/Stamp	School Feeding	Community Granaries
Benin				√	
Burkina Faso		√	√	√	√
Gambia, The				√	
Guinea*				√	
Guinea Bissau*				√	
Liberia*	√	√		√	
Mali		√		√	√
Niger**	√	√	√	√	√
Senegal	√	√		√	
Sierra Leone*		√		√	
Togo		√		√	

\*Countries also listed in FAO List of Countries in Crisis Requiring External Assistance

\*\* Countries listed by WFP as Highly Vulnerable to Increased Food Commodity and Fuel Prices

# Governance and Transparency

- The ECOWAS Commission President chairs an Executive Board
- A Management Agent has legal custody of reserve stocks and manages and provides oversight of the system
- An Advisory Committee assists the Executive Board and Management Agent by providing regular and timely food security and market analysis, early warning information and market intelligence

# Financing

- PREPARE operates on a cost-recovery basis, with transparent financing and appropriate burden sharing by all parties involved
- Initial costs are estimated at \$44.3 million and annual recurring costs are estimated at \$16.6 million