



## Rural Livelihoods in the context of COVID-19: Impact & Interventions needed for Resilience

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# Today's presentation

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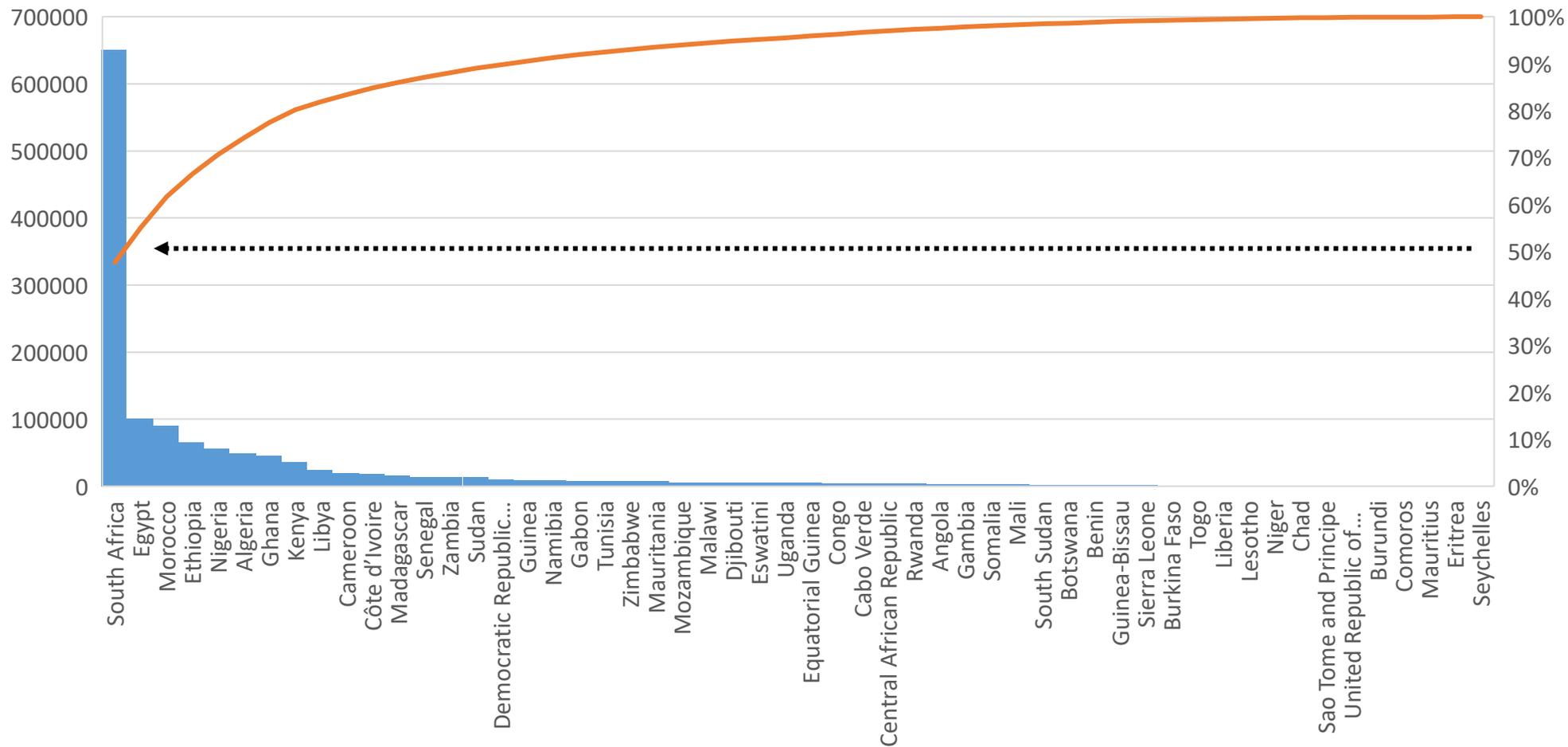
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**Post-COVID-19 recovery: RFS & 2RP**

# COVID-19 is still spreading in Africa

## Context

Reported cases in Africa - 16 September 2020

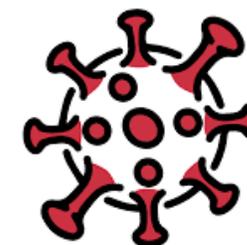


Source: WHO, COVID-19 situation report, 16 September 2020

## COVID-19 accentuates challenges for Africa

### Context

- ❖ **Healthcare system overstretched**
  - Some countries with zero capacity to cope
- ❖ **Economic activities disrupted**
  - Restrictions of movement, travel, access to market places
- ❖ **Food security threatened**
  - Productivity & trade shock
- ❖ **Extreme poverty on the rise**
  - Sub-Saharan Africa likely to be the hardest hit region with a projection of 23M people pushed into poverty [source: World Bank]



### Challenges for SHFs

- Declining remittance incomes,
- Failures to access inputs and/or output markets,
- Disruptions in food supply chains, blockages to delivery of services (incl. finance).

## ■ IFAD's role: mitigation-recovery-resilience

### IFAD's strategic response to COVID-19



#### Policy Engagement

- Global & coordinated response to COVID-19
- Ensure agriculture sector is not forgotten during COVID-19



#### Repurposing of ongoing projects

- COVID-19 responsive activities
- Reallocation of funds

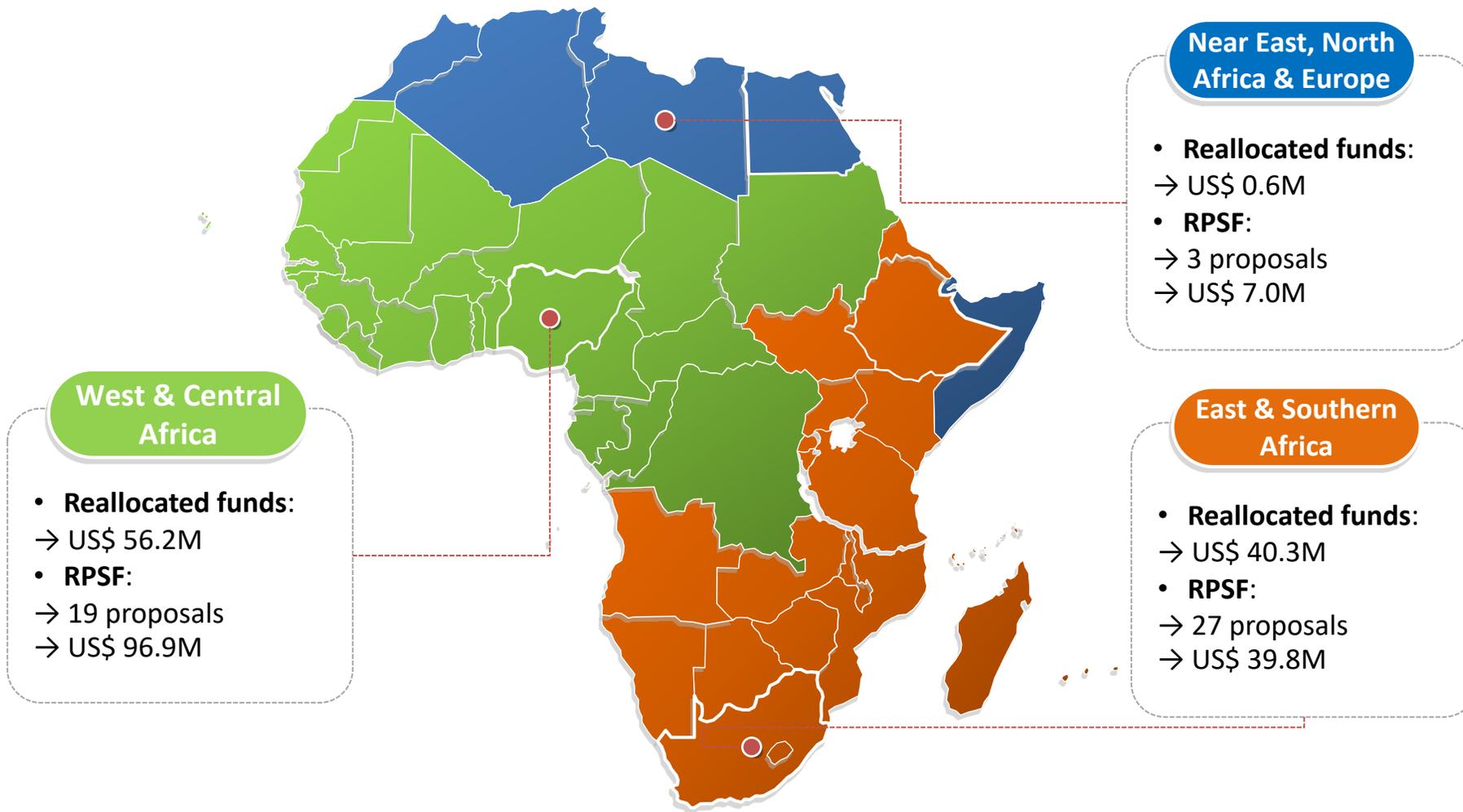


#### Rural Poor Stimulus Facility

- Fill the gap for additional resources to address disruptions in food systems
- Protect development gains & IFAD target group

# IFAD's projected achievements at a glance

IFAD's strategic response to COVID-19



❖ Total reallocated amount: US\$ 97.1M

❖ Total RPSF proposals: 49

❖ Total RPSF amount: US\$ 143,7M

## IFAD's actions in Eritrea



*Agriculture, food & nutrition:* threatened by COVID-19, as well as desert locust infestation.  
*Restrictive measures:* implemented before first reported case, challenges SHFs' livelihoods.  
*Impact of the pandemic:* immediate adverse effect on farmers & fishers.

### 'Fit for the purpose' of strengthening resilience in the face of crises



#### Fisheries Resource Management Project (FReMP)

*Objective:* To assist the recovery of beneficiaries

*Actions:*

Reallocation of project funds (US\$ 160K) to:

- Facilitate once-off cash transfers (safety net) to vulnerable households
- Provide ice to fishermen to build their asset base & enable them to resume their activities.



#### National Agriculture Programme (NAP)

*Objective:* To support the twin challenges of the desert locust emergency & COVID-19

*Actions:*

- Allocation of a US\$ 440K grant under IFAD's RPSF to facilitate continuous food supply to avert a 'food crisis within a health crisis'.  
→ Target beneficiaries: 35,350
- Provision of 10,000 liters of pesticide to support Eritrea's locust control.

## IFAD's actions in Ethiopia



*Agriculture*: backbone of the Ethiopian economy & dominant source of employment.  
*COVID-19*: tangible effects on agriculture, posing threats to the rural poor.  
*Impact of the pandemic*: already serious, likely to become severe.



### Situational analysis

To guide adequate measures to contain the effects on the food systems & its actors



### Immediate operational response

By reprogramming Programme Management Units (PMUs)



### Projects restructuring

Leveraging additional financing- incl. IFAD's Multi-donor Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF)  
→ Total: US\$ 5.5M  
→ Target beneficiaries: 24,282



### Reallocating funds

In consultation and at the request of Government  
→ RUFIP III: US\$ 28.8M to provide liquidity to 21 MFIs & 120 RuSACCOS (1.5M clients)



### Regional engagement

To sensitize on threats to food systems, advice on measured policy responses, and offer an interface to rural producers from IFAD's networks

## IFAD's actions in Malawi



*Malawi:* one of the poorest country in the world, heavily agriculture-dependent.  
*COVID-19:* large disruptions in trade, investment, and remittance flows.  
*Impact of the pandemic:* serious challenges to socio-economic systems, esp. in rural areas.

### Drawing lessons from the Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme (SAPP) (2012-2021)



#### Ensured access to agricultural inputs

- Flexibility for light repurposing of activities
- Priority given to seed-related activities
- Implementation of an input-delivery unit



#### Targeted funds

- For rural services through Village Challenge Fund (VCF)
- For VCF's beneficiaries to build resilience
- VCF further promote practices leading to enhanced productivity



#### Adapted management

- Early planning
- Virtual negotiations with off-takers
- Active & alternative communication & knowledge materials shared
- Decentralized coordination

→ Total beneficiaries supported through SAPP: 198,573 households

## IFAD's actions in Niger



*Restrictive measures:* adverse effect on companies & population, incl. in agriculture.  
*IFPRI:* more than 5.6M people expected to be affected, of which 4.4M in rural areas.  
*Impact of the pandemic:* already serious, likely to become severe.



### Emergency Project to Strengthen Resilience to the Shock of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Small Producers

- ★ US\$666,850 under IFAD's Multi-donor Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF)
- ★ 26 departments in the Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua & Zinder regions
- ★ Anchored within the IFAD-supported Family Farming Development Program (ProDAF)
- ★ Focused on agricultural inputs to boost agricultural production & contribute to mitigate the effect of COVID-19

## IFAD's actions in Zambia



*Restrictive measures:* adverse effect on companies & population, incl. in agriculture.  
*COVID-19:* particularly hard on education, transport, catering & accommodation sectors.  
*Opportunity:* COVID-19 – an occasion to offer innovative solutions to support rural areas?

### Stepping up Rural Finance to support smallholder farmers in times of global pandemic *Rural Finance Expansion Programme (RUFEP)*



#### Reaching out to rural areas

- Expansion of financial services through MFIs & DFS aggregators.
- Targeted messages provided by MNOs, or multi-service kiosks.



#### Safeguarding digital finance users

- Increased use of DFS, increased fraud
- Support to the Competition & Consumer Protection Commission



#### Promoting digital finance

- COVID-19: acceleration of adoption of DFS, incl. e-wallet
- Development of digital platforms

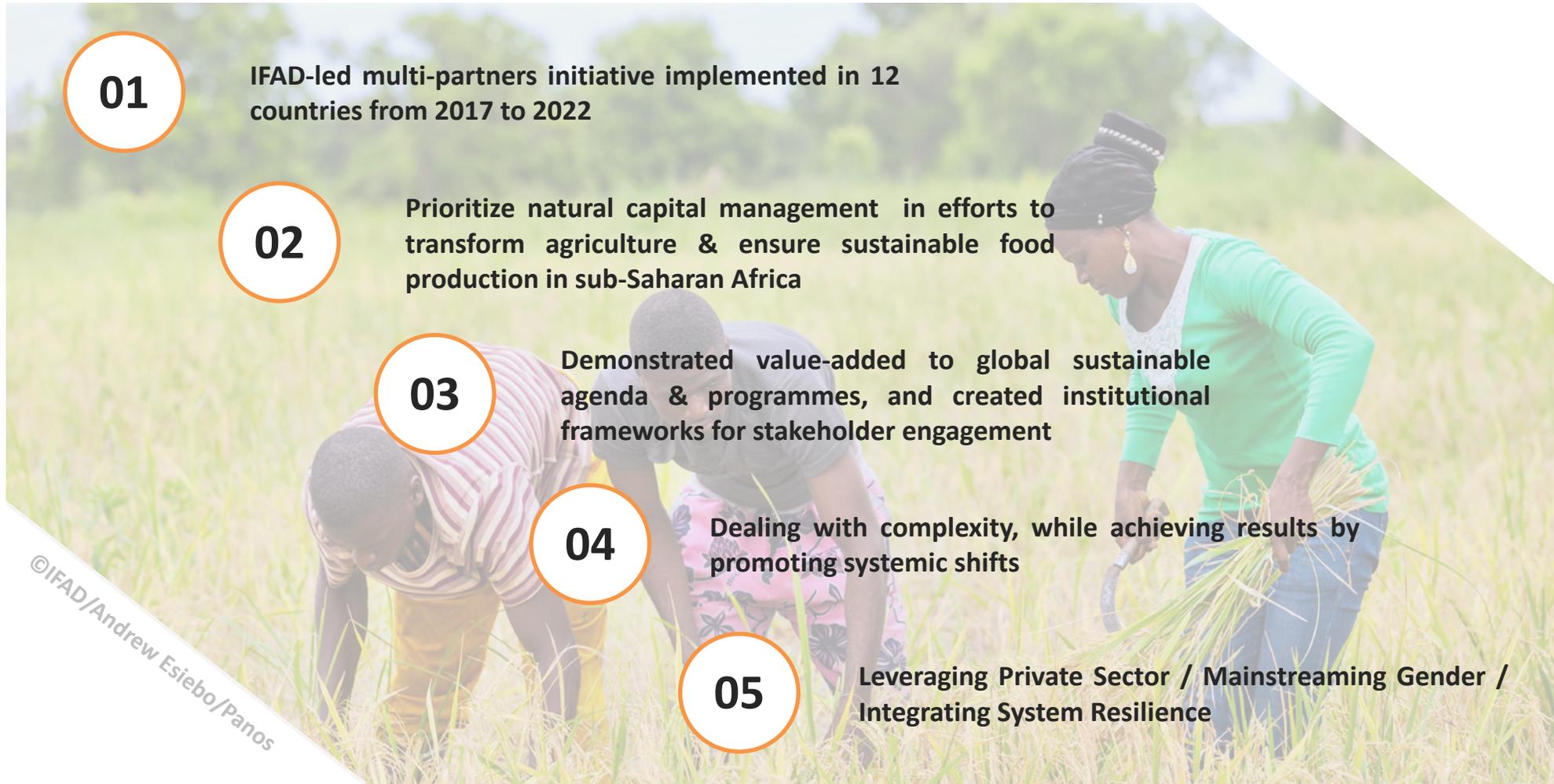


#### Supporting economic recovery

- Socio-economic analysis through the Financial Sector Deepening Zambia
- Support to the Association of Microfinance Institutions of Zambia
- TA to Bank of Zambia's stimulus facility.

→ Direct total beneficiaries supported: 230,000 rural people

# The Resilient Food Systems (RFS) programme



**01**

IFAD-led multi-partners initiative implemented in 12 countries from 2017 to 2022

**02**

Prioritize natural capital management in efforts to transform agriculture & ensure sustainable food production in sub-Saharan Africa

**03**

Demonstrated value-added to global sustainable agenda & programmes, and created institutional frameworks for stakeholder engagement

**04**

Dealing with complexity, while achieving results by promoting systemic shifts

**05**

Leveraging Private Sector / Mainstreaming Gender / Integrating System Resilience

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## The Rural Resilience Program (2RP)

- 2RP: *umbrella* programme focusing on alleviating the climate change drivers of food insecurity, irregular migration & land degradation
- Three pillars: ASAP+, 3S Initiative & GGW Initiative (GCF)

### Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme



**ASAP+**

- Channel climate finance to small-scale producers
- Address climate change drivers of growing food insecurity through adaptation & mitigation

### Initiative for Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa



**3S**

- Sustainability of natural resources & their use
- Stability of human resources
- Security – absence of violence & peace maintenance in fragile areas

### Great Green Wall Initiative



**GGW**

- Restore Africa's degraded landscapes & transform millions of lives in the Sahel, and beyond
- 2030: largest living structure on the planet



# Thank You

