#Introduction & Context

According to the World Food Summit of 1996, food security is defined as "...when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet dietary needs for a productive and healthy life" (UN, 2014). Food insecurity is therefore the absence of these conditions. Over decades now, the global food security has been a major challenge for global communities to manage. About 821 million people across the world suffered from hunger in 2018 according to the United Nations. With the world population fast growing, we would need to provide food for an estimate of 9 Billion people by the year 2050 (Breene, 2016). This means that the number of people suffering from hunger would further increase over years; as a result, we should place more urgency on resolving this issue.

The major contributing factors to the inability to meet food security range from a fast population growth, climate change, water scarcity, a decrease in the number of farmers, high cost of farming (Breene, 2016) and political instability in many countries (Maxwell, 2012). Policymakers and global leaders are committed to ending hunger and have codified this effort through the Millennium Challenge Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the UN's Zero Hunger Challenge.

In order to meet these goals, policy makers have invested into initiatives to fund the agricultural sector and engaged in partnerships with farmers and major stakeholders to bring forth comprehensive solutions to improve the global food production. This analysis will focus on the availability of good in the region of West Africa. We seek to understand how capital flows in the agricultural sector influence the availability of food in West African countries.

1. Food insecurity
   1. Definition
   2. Difference between food security & food emergency
2. Causes of food insecurity
   1. Natural disasters caused by drought, floods, wildfires and others, destroy crops causing food scarcity and when severe, it can lead to famine.
   2. Political instabilities
      1. Militarized conflicts, one of the major drivers of emergency food assistance
      2. Prolonged instability leading to poor management of resources resulting in food insecurity (Somalia)
      3. Food insecurity leading to conflicts, resulting in political instability. Sometimes this is linked to conflict over natural resources and land conflicts
   3. Climate change due to global warming has increasingly been causing scarcity of food in certain regions of the world, forcing migration. In Sub-Saharan Africa, our region of focus, climate change has caused migration from rural areas toward urban areas. Rural areas were the ones originally affected by food insecurity and were the ones that benefited the most of food assistance when this type of aid first originated. As migration due to climate change increased, overpopulated urban areas are now also increasingly suffering from food insecurity.
3. Which one should our project address?
   1. Climate change? And conflicts resulting from food scarcity?
4. As Maxwell (2012) indicated in his analysis, food insecurity has been exponentially rising over the years. However, the number of people experiencing death from food insecurity continues to decrease significantly due to foreign assistance. In our research we are seeking to analyze the relationship between FDA (Foreign Direct Assistance) and food security, which is the lack of food insecurity. We believe this is important
   * 1. Population growth is higher in developing countries, which are the most affected, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa (find growth rate stat)
     2. By 2050 world population is estimated to reach 9 billion, which is the number of people we would have to provide food for. (Breene, 2016 [World Econ Forum])
     3. SDG goal- UN’s goal is to end hunger by 2030 (Breene, 2016)

\*Breene, Keith. “Food Security and Why It Matters.” World Economic Forum. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/food-security-and-why-it-matters/ (January 6, 2020).

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\*\*Maxwell, Daniel. “Food Security and Its Implications for Political Stability: A Humanitarian Perspective.”: 30. http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs\_high\_level\_forum/documents/FS-Implications-Political\_Stability-Maxwell.pdf

\*McMichael, Philip, and Mindi Schneider. 2011. “Food Security Politics and the Millennium Development Goals.” *Third World Quarterly* 32(1): 119–39.

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