



**FINANCING NUTRITION DURING AND BEYOND
COVID-19: IMPLICATIONS FOR AN AFRICAN
BUDGET MANAGER**
EXPERIENCES FROM THE ECOWAS COMMISSION

By

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ECOWAS Response to COVID-19

1. Coordination Mechanism established to address the management and control of the pandemic. Presidential and Ministerial Committees and Taskforces to Coordinate Regional and National Responses.
2. The principal objectives of the coordinating bodies is to save lives, contain the spread of the COVID-19, provide palliatives for vulnerable populations, provide support systems to cushion the effects on local and national economies and the development of relevant safety nets.

Mainstreaming Nutrition and Cross Border Trade of Food

1. Integration of nutrition security in the ECOWAP(2025), RAIP-FNS, NAIPs.
2. Operationalisation of COVID-19 Response Plan in the ECOWAS Region. Addressing holistically health, food and nutrition security, social protection/ livelihoods, policy advocacy.
3. H.E. President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria designated as Champion for COVID-19 Response by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of States and Government. Ensuring regional coordination of the response plan.

Mainstreaming Nutrition and Cross Border Trade of Food (cont...)

4. Realignment of 2020 ECOWAS Departmental Budgets and Work Plans to address COVID-19 activities. DAEWR aligned its budget to address food and nutrition concerns in the 15 Member states.
5. Policy advocacy on global , continental and regional nutrition agreements / directives.
6. Partnership and resource mobilization e.g. development of new initiatives such as the Food System Resilience Program(FSRP) with the World Bank, other Regional Bodies and Development Partners.

Affordability of nutrition outcomes in member states

1. Policy advocacy with Member states to ensure that nutrition programmes benefit the most vulnerable and the poor.
2. Providing support to food safety nets such as food grain reserves, modified school feeding programmes.
3. Encouraging the rearing of small ruminants and local vegetables at the household levels .
4. Providing palliatives in a sustainable manner through a solidarity fund.
5. Increased investments in food and nutrition with emphasis on the Maputo 2014 declaration and other regional and continental commitments.
6. Provision of agricultural inputs and support systems on time to ensure a good harvest from the 2020/2021 farming season.